

# U S S R

## A Reference Book of Facts and Figures

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# U.S.S.R. REFERENCE BOOK



**THE ARMS OF THE SOVIET UNION:** The inscription reads, "Workers Of All Lands, Unite", and appears in the language of each of the fifteen republics.

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## THE SOVIET FLAG



The state flag of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is of red cloth with the sickle and hammer depicted in gold in the upper corner near the staff and above them a five-pointed star bordered in gold.

The ratio of width to the length is 1 : 2.

## THE SOVIET NATIONAL ANTHEM

*Words by S. Mikhalkov and El-Registan; music by A. V. Alexandrov, 1944  
(First verse and chorus)*

Unbreakable Union of freeborn Republics,  
Great Russia has welded forever to stand;  
Created in struggle by will of the peoples,  
United and mighty, our Soviet Land!

Sing to our Motherland, glory undying,  
Bulwark of peoples in brotherhood strong!  
Flag of the Soviets, peoples' flag flying,  
Lead us from vict'ry to victory on!

# THE FIFTEEN REPUBLICS

## GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The U.S.S.R. is located in Eastern Europe and in Northern and Central Asia.

The extreme points on the mainland are as follows:

North: 77° 44' N. Lat. (Cape Chelyuskin)

South: 35° 08' N. Lat. (south of Kushka)

West: 19° 38' E. Long. (Baltic spit)

East: 169° 40' W. Long. (Cape Dezhnev)

## FRONTIERS

The U.S.S.R. has common frontiers with Norway, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia, China and Korea.

Soviet frontiers stretch for over 36,000 miles.

The coasts of the U.S.S.R. are washed by the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific Oceans.

## SIZE

Total area (including islands) 8,600,000 square miles.

Shortest distance from east to west: 5,580 miles.

Shortest distance from north to south: 2,790 miles.

The U.S.S.R. is the largest country in the world, occupying half of Europe and a third of Asia—one-sixth of the habitable portion of the earth.

The territory is so large that day begins in the east 11 hours before it reaches the west. As the sun rises over Vladivostok it is setting over Moscow on the previous day.

## CAPITAL

of the U.S.S.R.: Moscow, with a population of 4,839,000.

The Soviet Union (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) is a Union of the following fifteen Republics:

## REPUBLICS

	<i>Area (sq. miles)</i>	<i>Population April 1956</i>	<i>Capital</i>
The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.) .. .. .	6,569,000	113,200,000	Moscow
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic .. .. .	231,100	40,600,000	Kiev
Byelorussian S.S.R. .. .. .	80,000	8,000,000	Minsk
Uzbek S.S.R. .. .. .	153,400	7,300,000	Tashkent
Kazakh S.S.R. .. .. .	1,102,300	8,500,000	Alma-Ata
Georgian S.S.R. .. .. .	27,700	4,000,000	Tbilisi
Azerbaijan S.S.R. .. .. .	33,400	3,400,000	Baku
Lithuanian S.S.R. .. .. .	25,000	2,700,000	Vilnius
Moldavian S.S.R. .. .. .	13,000	2,700,000	Kishinev
Latvian S.S.R. .. .. .	24,600	2,000,000	Riga
Kirghiz S.S.R. .. .. .	76,150	1,900,000	Frunze
Tajik S.S.R. .. .. .	54,600	1,800,700	Stalinabad
Armenian S.S.R. .. .. .	11,540	1,600,000	Yerevan
Turkmen S.S.R. .. .. .	187,000	1,400,000	Ashkhabad
Estonian S.S.R. .. .. .	17,300	1,100,000	Tallinn

These fifteen Republics contain several Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics, Autonomous Regions, and Regions, as follows:

The R.S.F.S.R. consists of the Altai, Krasnodar, Krasnoyarsk, Primorye, Stavropol and Khabarovsk Territories; the Amur, Arkhangelsk, Astrakhan, Bryansk, Velikiye-Luki, Vladimir, Vologda, Voronezh, Gorky, Grozny, Ivanovo, Irkutsk, Kaliningrad, Kalinin, Kaluga, Kemerovo, Kirov, Kostroma, Crimean, Kuibyshev, Kurgan, Kursk, Leningrad, Molotov, Moscow, Murmansk, Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Omsk, Orel, Penza, Pskov, Rostov, Ryazan, Saratov, Sakhalin, Sverdlovsk, Smolensk, Stalingrad, Tambov, Tomsk, Tula, Tyumen, Ulyanovsk, Chelyabinsk, Chita, Chkalov and Yaroslavl Regions; the Tatar, Bashkir, Daghestan, Buryat-Mongolian, Kabardinian, Komi,

Mari, Mordovian, North Ossetian, Udmurt, Chuvash and Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics; and the Adygei, Gorno-Altai, Jewish, Tuva, Khakass and Cherkess Autonomous Regions.

Since July 1956 by decision of the Supreme Soviet, at the request of the Karelo-Finnish Republic, this republic—hitherto the Sixteenth republic of the U.S.S.R.—became an Autonomous Republic within the R.S.F.S.R.

The Ukrainian S.S.R. consists of the Vinnitsa, Volhynia, Voroshilovgrad, Dnepropetrovsk, Drohobych, Zhitomir, Trans-Carpathian, Zaporozhye, Ismail, Kamenets-Podolsk, Kiev, Kirovgrad, Lvov, Nikolayev, Odessa, Poltava, Rovno, Stalino, Stanislav, Sumi, Ternopol, Kharkov, Kherson, Chernigov and Chernovitsi Regions.



*Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.*

The Azerbaijan S.S.R. includes the Nakhichevan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region.

The Georgian S.S.R. consists of the Kutaisi and Tbilisi Regions, the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, the Adjara Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

The Uzbek S.S.R. consists of the Andizhan, Bukhara, Kashka-Darya, Namangan, Samarkand, Surkhan-Darya, Tashkent, Fergana and Khorezm Regions and the Karakalpak Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

The Tajik S.S.R. consists of the Garm, Kulyab and Leninabad Regions and the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region.

*Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.*



The Kazakh S.S.R. consists of the Akmolinsk, Aktyubinsk, Alma-Ata, East Kazakhstan, Guriev, Jambul, West Kazakhstan, Karaganda, Kzyl-Orda, Kokchetav, Kustanai, Pavlodar, North Kazakhstan, Semipalatinsk, Taldy-Kurgan and South Kazakhstan Regions.

The Byelorussian S.S.R. consists of the Baranovich, Bobruisk, Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, Moghilev, Molodechno, Pinsk, Polesse and Polotsk Regions.

The Turkmen S.S.R. consists of the Ashkhabad, Mary, Tashauz and Chardzhou Regions.

The Kirghiz S.S.R. consists of the Dzhalsal-Abad, Issyk-Kul, Osh, Tien-Shan and Frunze Regions.

*Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.*



## ARMS OF THE U.S.S.R. AND FLAGS

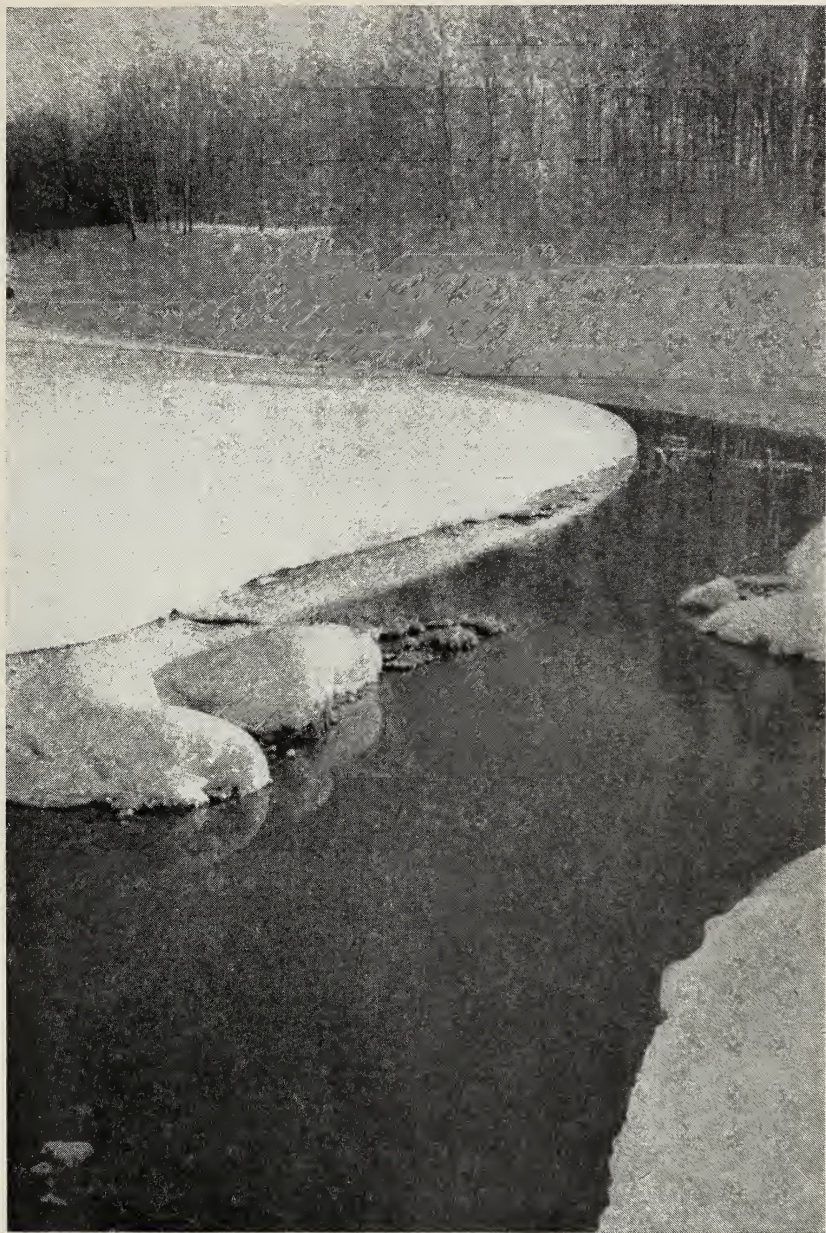
The arms of the Soviet Union are a sickle and a hammer against a globe depicted in the rays of the sun, and surrounded by ears of grain, with the inscription "Workers of All Lands, Unite!" in the languages of the fifteen Republics. These inscriptions are carried on a ribbon which winds round the stalks supporting the ears of grain. Above the globe is a five-pointed star.

The state flag of the Soviet Union is of red cloth with the hammer and sickle depicted in gold in the upper corner near the staff, and above them a five-pointed red star bordered in gold. Ratio of width to length 1: 2.

Each of the fifteen Republics has its own flag, based on the red flag with hammer, sickle, and star, but with the addition of coloured bands and devices. Each has its own state emblem.

The Soviet Army, Navy and Air Force also have their own flags.





*The stillness of winter in the Russian countryside. The small stream is the beginning of the River Belaya in the Ural forests near Ufa. It is a tributary of the Volga.*





*Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.*

## POPULATION

The U.S.S.R. has the third largest population in the world (after China and India) with 200,200,000 (April 1956).

Population at 1939 census: 170,467,572.

Population in 1926: 147,000,000.

Annual net increase of the population has exceeded 3,000,000 in recent years.

**Increase in Industrial and Office Workers:** In 1932 there were 22,900,000 industrial and office workers in the U.S.S.R.

In 1938: 27,800,000.

In 1954: 47,000,000 (*approx.*).

**Urban Population:** The U.S.S.R. now holds second place in the world for the size of the population living in towns.

1914: 24,700,000; 1926: 26,300,000 (17.9 per cent).

1939: 55,900,000; 1953: 80,000,000 (*approx.*)

1956 (Jan.): 87,000,000 (43.4 per cent).

**Towns:** The U.S.S.R. has 1,566 towns and 2,723 settlements of an urban type.

## DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING POPULATION

(from the statistical survey "National Economy of the U.S.S.R. 1956")

	1913	1956
Percentage of population engaged in Industry and Construction .. .. .	9	31
In Agriculture and Forestry ..	75	43
In Transport and Communications .. .. .	2	6
In Education and Health services .. .. .	1	9

(the above figures exclude students and service-men)

The statistical survey shows that 85.2 per cent of employed persons in the U.S.S.R. are engaged in production, and only 14.8 per cent in non-productive spheres, i.e. in education, public health, municipal services, and the administrative apparatus of the state.

## NATIONALITIES

The U.S.S.R. unites more than 100 nationalities. The largest of them—from the 1939 census—are as follows:

Russians .. ..	99,000,000
Ukrainians .. ..	28,000,000
Byelorussians .. ..	5,300,000
Uzbeks .. ..	4,800,000
Tatars .. ..	4,300,000
Kazakhs .. ..	3,100,000
Jews .. ..	3,000,000
Azerbaijanians .. ..	2,300,000
Georgians .. ..	2,200,000
Armenians .. ..	2,200,000
Mordovians .. ..	1,500,000
Chuvashians .. ..	1,400,000
Tajiks .. ..	1,200,000
Kirghiz .. ..	900,000

Since 1940: Latvians 1,500,000; Lithuanians 2,400,000; Estonians 1,000,000.

## POPULATION OF MAIN CITIES AND TOWNS, 1956

(in thousands)

(The capitals of Union Republics are in bold type.)

Moscow (without suburbs) .. ..	4,839
Leningrad (with suburbs) .. ..	3,176
Leningrad (without suburbs) .. ..	2,814
Kiev .. ..	991
Baku (with suburbs) .. ..	901
Baku (without suburbs) .. ..	598
Kharkov .. ..	877

*Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic.*



Gorky .. .. .	876
Tashkent .. .. .	778
Kuibyshev .. .. .	760
Novosibirsk .. .. .	731
Sverdlovsk .. .. .	707
Tbilisi .. .. .	635
Stalino .. .. .	625
Chelyabinsk .. .. .	612
Odessa .. .. .	607
Dnepropetrovsk .. .. .	576
Kazan .. .. .	565
Riga .. .. .	565
Rostov-on-Don .. .. .	552
Molotov .. .. .	538
Stalingrad .. .. .	525
Saratov .. .. .	518
Omsk .. .. .	505
Minsk .. .. .	412
Voronezh .. .. .	400
Lvov .. .. .	387
Yerevan .. .. .	385
Zaporozhye .. .. .	381
Yaroslavl .. .. .	374
Karaganda .. .. .	350
Stalinsk .. .. .	347
Alma-Ata .. .. .	330
Krasnoyarsk .. .. .	328
Krivoi Rog .. .. .	322
Tula .. .. .	320
Ivanovo .. .. .	319
Irkutsk .. .. .	314
Makeyevka .. .. .	311
Nizhni Tagil .. .. .	297
Magnitogorsk .. .. .	284
Khabarovsk .. .. .	280
Astrakhan .. .. .	276
Zhdanov .. .. .	273
Krasnodar .. .. .	271
Vladivostok .. .. .	265
Ufa .. .. .	265

*Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.*



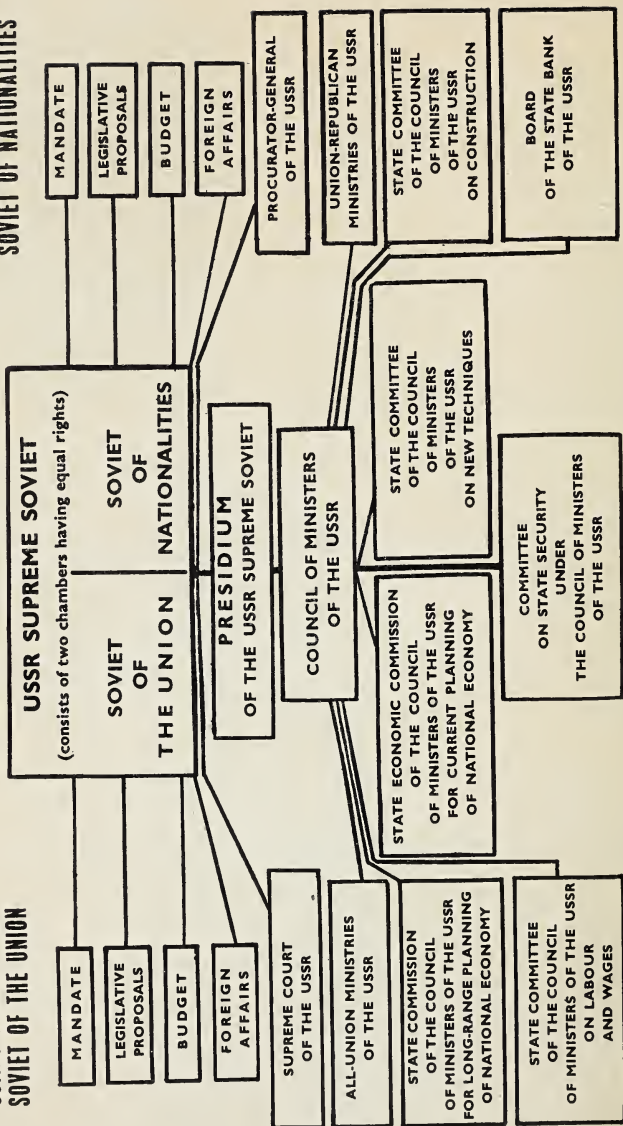
*Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.*

Prokopievsk .. .. .	260
Tallinn .. .. .	257
Barnaul .. .. .	255
Izhevsk .. .. .	252
Voroshilovgrad .. .. .	251
Kalinin .. .. .	240
Kemerovo .. .. .	240
Gorlovka .. .. .	240
Arkhangelsk .. .. .	238
Penza .. .. .	231
Grozny .. .. .	226
Chkalov .. .. .	226
Tomsk .. .. .	224
Kirov .. .. .	211
Nikolayev .. .. .	206
Chernikovsk .. .. .	206
Vilnius .. .. .	200
Kaunas .. .. .	195
Stalinabad .. .. .	191
Frunze .. .. .	190
Kishinev .. .. .	190
Taganrog .. .. .	189
Kaliningrad .. .. .	188

(There are sixty-seven other towns with populations over 100,000, but only capitals and the more generally known are listed below)

Samarkand .. .. .	170
Murmansk .. .. .	168
Orjonikidze .. .. .	159
Ulan-Ude .. .. .	158
Ashkhabad .. .. .	142
Semipalatinsk .. .. .	136
Sevastopol .. .. .	133
Smolensk .. .. .	131
Poltava .. .. .	129
Orel .. .. .	128
Petrozavodsk .. .. .	118

## COMMISSIONS OF THE SOVIET OF NATIONALITIES





## SOCIAL AND STATE STRUCTURE

The U.S.S.R. is a socialist state of workers and peasants. It was brought into being as the result of the victory of the great October Socialist Revolution in 1917. This took place on 25 October according to the old calendar, or 7 November according to the new.

The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. (the Fundamental Law) was adopted on 5 December 1936, and with additions and amendments, is still in force.

All power in the U.S.S.R. belongs to the working people, as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

The economic foundation of the U.S.S.R. is the socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production. The economic life of the U.S.S.R. is determined by the State Plan.

The U.S.S.R. is a Union of equal Soviet Socialist Republics. Each of them has the right of secession from the U.S.S.R., and the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states. (The U.S.S.R., the Ukrainian Republic, and the Byelorussian Republic were among the founders of the United Nations.)

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. is the highest organ of state power in the Soviet Union. It consists of two Chambers with equal rights (the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities) elected for a term of four years.

The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. elects its Presidium (collective head of state exercising sovereign power), headed by a President and fifteen Vice-Presidents (one for each Union Republic). The highest organ of state power in each Union or Autonomous Republic is the Supreme Soviet of the Union or Autonomous Republic.

The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. is the highest executive organ; and in the Union and Autonomous Republics, the Council of Ministers of the Republic.

The Russian Federation has thirteen Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics, the Azerbaijanian Republic one, the Georgian Republic two, and the Uzbek Republic one. The Autonomous Republics have their own Supreme Soviets and Councils of Ministers.

Union Republics are administratively divided into krajs and oblasts (128), and krajs and oblasts are divided into rayons (4,328).

Soviets of Working People's Deputies are the organs of state power in the territories, regions, autonomous regions, areas, cities, towns and villages.

Elections of Deputies to all Soviets are universal, equal and direct, and are held by secret ballot.

All citizens who have reached the age of eighteen have the right to vote and stand as candidates in the elections, irrespective of race, nationality, sex, creed, social origin,

property status or past activity.

Supreme Soviet candidates must be twenty-three or over.

Deputies to the Supreme Soviet are elected on the basis of one deputy for every 300,000 of the population.

Deputies to the Soviet of Nationalities are elected on the basis of twenty-five from each Union Republic, eleven from each Autonomous Republic, five from each Autonomous Region, and one from each National Area.

Legislation can be initiated by either the Soviet of the Union or the Soviet of Nationalities. They sit simultaneously, and a law is considered adopted if passed by a simple majority in both Chambers.

Sessions of the Supreme Soviet are convened twice a year by the Presidium.

Ministries: Ministries are either "All-Union"—embracing all fifteen Republics, or "Union-Republican"—applicable to the individual Republics.

Following changes in the Constitution on 7 February 1955 and following the July 1956 session of the Supreme Soviet, the Ministries are:

### All-Union Ministries:

The Aircraft Industry.

The Motor, Tractor and Agricultural Machinery Industry.

The Paper and Woodworking Industry.

Foreign Trade.

Geology and Conservation of Mineral Wealth.

Machine and Instrument-Making Industry.

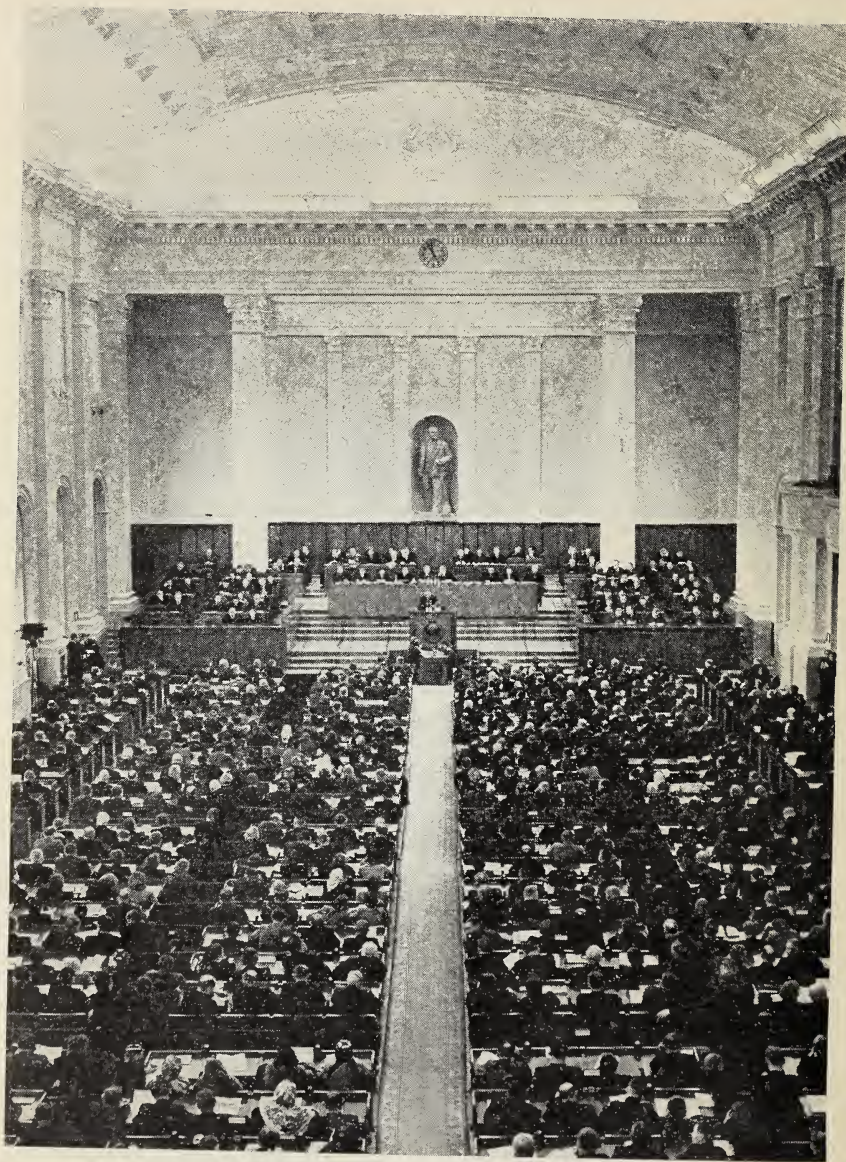
The Merchant Navy.

The Defence Industry.

### *Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic.*



## THE SUPREME SOVIET



*The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. A joint sitting of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities (from the balcony at the second session of the Fourth Supreme Soviet).*





*Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.*

Railways.

The Radio Equipment Industry.

The Medium Engineering Industry.

The Building and Road-Building Machinery Industry.

The Construction of Metallurgical and Chemical Industry Enterprises.

The Construction of Oil Industry Enterprises.

The Construction of Power Stations.

The Shipbuilding Industry.

The Transport Machinery Industry.

Transport Construction.

The Heavy Engineering Industry.

Light Industry.

The Chemical Industry.

Power Stations.

The Electrical Equipment Industry.

The Machine-Tool and Tool-Making Industry.

**Union Republican Ministries:**

Road Transport and Highways.

Internal Affairs.

Higher Education.

Urban and Rural Construction.

State Control.

Health.

Foreign Affairs.

Light Industry.

Textiles.

Culture.

The Timber Industry.

The Oil Industry.

Defence.

The Meat and Dairy Industry.

The Food Industry.

Building Materials Industry.

Manufactured Consumer Goods.

The Fishing Industry.

Communications.

Agriculture.

Grain Products.

State Farms.

Inland Water Transport.

Construction.

Trade.

The Coal Industry.

Finance.

The Non-Ferrous Metallurgical Industry.

The Iron and Steel Industry.

Justice.

## BASIC RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS

All citizens of the U.S.S.R. have the right to work, to rest, and to leisure, to maintenance in old age (and also in case of sickness or disability). The inviolability of the person, freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly and meetings, and of street processions and demonstrations are guaranteed by law. Women are accorded equal rights with men.

Citizens of the U.S.S.R. are guaranteed the right to unite in voluntary organisations: trade unions, co-operative societies, youth, cultural, scientific, sports, defence, and other organisations and societies.

## —AND DUTIES . . .

Soviet citizens are required to abide by the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., to observe its laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

It is the duty of Soviet citizens to safeguard and fortify public, socialist property, which is regarded as the foundation of the Soviet system.

There is universal military service, which is regarded as an honourable duty for Soviet citizens.

*Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic.*



# THE COMMUNIST PARTY

## THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

(C.P.S.U.) is a voluntary union of like-minded people—of Communists—from among men and women of the working class, working peasants, and intellectuals. Its membership on 1 February 1956 was 7,215,505 (made up of 6,795,896 members and 419,609 candidate members. The Lenin Young Communist League (L.Y.C.L.S.U.) is a mass youth organisation with 18,500,000 members.

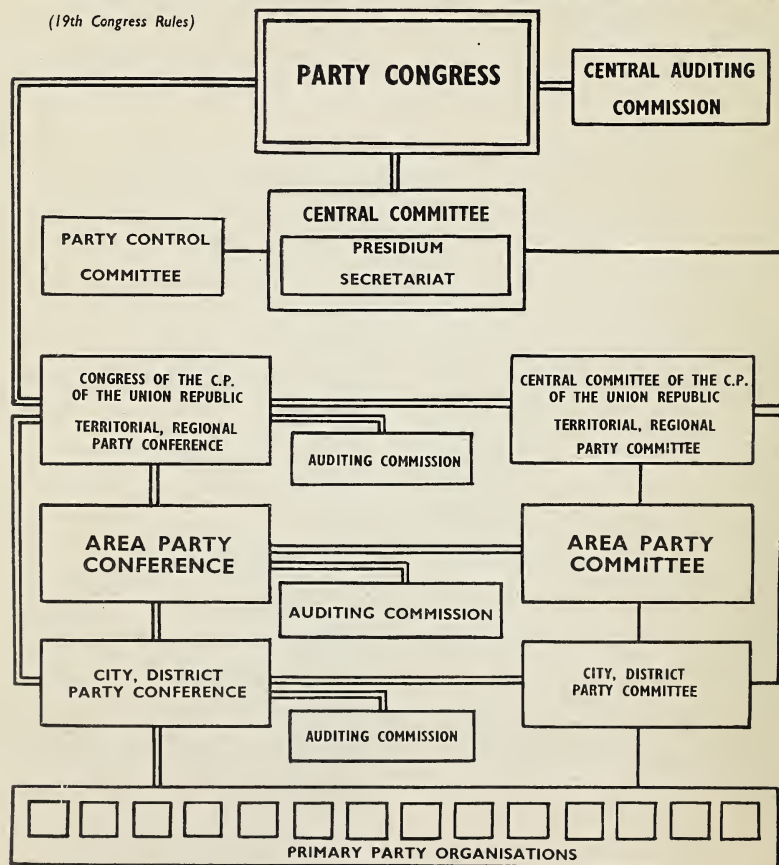
Among the many organisations and societies may be mentioned those which fight for peace and against fascism—the Soviet Peace Committee, the United Nations Association, the Anti-Fascist Committee of Soviet Women and the Committee of Soviet Youth Organisations.

VOKS is the name (from its Russian initials) by which the U.S.S.R. Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries is usually known.

Intourist is the organisation serving foreign tourists visiting the U.S.S.R.

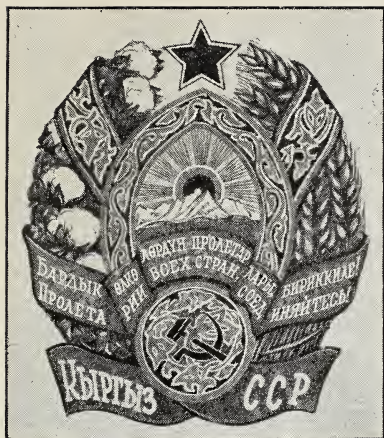
## STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

(19th Congress Rules)



== Indicates Electiveness and Accountability

— Indicates Subordination



*Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic.*

## RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognised for all citizens by the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. In the U.S.S.R. the church is separated from the state, and the school from the church.

The following religious denominations exist in the U.S.S.R.: the Russian Orthodox Church; the Moslem religion; the Roman Catholic Church; the Staroobriadtsi Church ("Old Believers"); the Georgian Orthodox Church; the Armenian ("Gregorian") Church; the Lutheran Church; the Church of Evangelical Christians (Baptists); the Buddhist religion; and the Judaic religion (Jews).

The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. has a Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church and a Council for the Affairs of Religious Cults, that is, of all the other religious denominations.

These Councils help religious organisations to solve problems involving relations with state institutions, and see to the observance of the laws on the freedom of conscience and the freedom of religious worship.

The largest of the religious groups is the Russian Orthodox which has 20,000 churches, 32,000 priests, 75 bishops, 2 theological academies, 10 seminaries, and 90 monasteries and convents.

Moslems form the second largest group.

Among the religious groups with a small following are to be found such groups as the Seventh Day Adventists (in Moscow), the Reformation (in Trans-Carpathia), the Molokani, and others.

No distinctions are drawn between believers and atheists. No information concerning religion is ever requested when applying for entry to school or employment.

## MONEY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, CALENDAR

**Money:** The Soviet Union has a gold-backed currency, established on 1 March 1950.

One rouble=0.222168 gramme of gold=100 kopecks; 1 gramme of pure gold=4 roubles 45 kopecks; £1=11.20 roubles; \$=4 roubles.

**Coins and notes:** There are Treasury notes for 1, 3, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 gold roubles; and bronze coins of 1, 2, 3 and 5 kopecks. Nickel 10, 15 and 20 kopeck coins were introduced in 1932.

**Weights and Measures:** The metric system has been used in the Soviet Union since 1 January 1927.

Some of the following old Russian weights and measures may be found in pre-1927 publications:

1 vershok =  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

16 vershoks = 1 arshin = 28 inches.

3 arshins = 1 sazhin = 7 feet.

1 verst = 500 sazhins =  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

1 pound (Russian) = 32 lots = 96 zolotniks = 0.9 lb English.

1 pood = 40 pounds (Russian) = 36 lb. (English).

**Calendar:** The calendar was changed from the Julian to the Gregorian by Soviet decree as from 14 February 1918, thus bringing it into line with almost universal practice. This made a "loss" of thirteen dates, so that the day of the Revolution, which was 25 October 1917 in Russia, was known as 7 November 1917 elsewhere.

*Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic.*





## NATURE : Mountains Lakes and Rivers

The natural conditions in the U.S.S.R. are exceedingly diverse, ranging from the arctic to the sub-tropical.

Vegetation is divided into four main belts: tundra, forest, steppe, and desert. In the extreme north, nothing grows but the moss and lichen upon which reindeer feed, whilst in the south grow such sub-tropical products as oranges and lemons, cotton and tobacco.

The tallest peaks (in feet above sea-level):

Stalin Peak (Pamirs) 24,583; Victory Peak

(Tian Shan) 24,399; Lenin Peak (Zaala Range) 23,399; Elbrus (Caucasus) 18,476; Mount Klyuchevsky (volcano in Kamchatka Range) 15,908; Mount Belukha (Altai Range) 14,779.

The longest rivers (in miles):

Amur ..	2,610	Amu Darya	1,560
Lena ..	2,562	Ural ..	1,518
Yenisei ..	2,478	Dnieper ..	1,368
Ob ..	2,442	Kolyma ..	1,290
Volga ..	2,214	Don ..	1,170
Syr Darya	1,710		



The face and reverse of a 10-rouble Note of the State Bank of the U.S.S.R.



*Basking like seals, people of Zverigorod enjoy the placid waters of the Moscow River, which, many miles further on, wind through the Soviet capital.*

**The biggest lakes and inland seas (areas in square miles):**

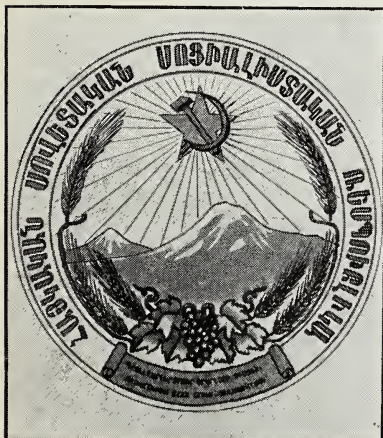
Caspian Sea	152,000	Lake Balkhash	6,700
Aral Sea	25,200	Lake Onega	3,700
Lake Baikal	11,800	Lake Issyk-Kul	2,350
Lake Ladoga	6,800		

**The most important islands and archipelagos:**

Novaya Zemlya, Sakhalin, Novosibirsk Islands, Severnaya Zemlya, Franz Josef Land, Kurile Islands—having a total area of nearly 120,000 square miles.

**Mineral Wealth:** The U.S.S.R. holds first

*Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic.*



place in the world for reserves of iron ore, oil, peat, potash and apatites. It holds second place for coal, manganese ore and phosphorites. There are rich stocks of non-ferrous and precious metals, rock salt and other deposits.

**Power Resources:** The U.S.S.R. possesses all the raw materials necessary for the production of atomic energy.

The U.S.S.R. holds first place in the world for water-power resources.

The potential water-power resources of the U.S.S.R. are estimated at 1,700,000 million kilowatt-hours, whilst the most effective part of these resources—the so-called economic potential of hydroelectric power—is estimated at 1,200,000 million kilowatt-hours.

The surveyed reserves of such energy as solid fuel, oil, natural gas, and water power amount (in terms of conventional fuel) to 1,590,000 million tons.

## NATIONAL ECONOMY

Socialist industrialisation, and the collectivisation of agriculture have assured the powerful development of all branches of the country's economy. From being predominantly an agricultural economy, as early as 1938 industry accounted for 75 per cent of the country's total output.

In Soviet times new industrial centres and districts have arisen, many of them in the eastern part of the country.

**Heavy industry,** basis for the development of the entire economy of the U.S.S.R. contributes two-thirds of the total industrial output.

The increase in the output of the main branches of heavy industry was as follows:



		Pig Iron millions of tons	Steel millions of tons	Coal millions of tons	Oil millions of tons	Electric Power millions of kilowatt-hours
1913	..	4.2	4.23	29.15	9.2	1,900
1940	..	17.9	18.3	165.9	31.1	48,300
1955	..	33.3	45.26	391.0	70.8	170,100
1960 (plan)	..	53.0	68.3	593.0	135.0	320,000



*A Soviet coalmine—the Dobropolye No. 3 pit at Stalino in the Donbas.*

Big achievements have been registered in **machine building** (production of automobiles, tractors, planes, ships, locomotives, farm machinery, machine tools, instruments etc.). Soviet industry produced 109,000 tractors in 1950 and 163,000 in 1955; in 1960 output is to reach 322,000 tractors.

Here are the figures (in thousands) relating to tractors, cars, and metal-cutting lathes:—

	Tractors	Cars	Metal-cutting lathes
1950 ..	109	362.9	70.6
1955 ..	163	445.3	117.8
1960 (Plan)	322	650	200

The **chemical industry** and the **building materials industry** are being greatly expanded. The output of mineral fertilisers amounted to 5.5 million tons in 1950, 9.6 million tons in 1955, and is to rise to 19.6 million tons in 1960. The respective figures for cement are 10 million, 22 million and 55 million tons.

The development of heavy industry facilitates the expansion of the **light and food industries** on the basis of new techniques. The textile, knitgoods, footwear, meat, dairy, fish, canning, bread-baking, sugar and other industries have been greatly developed.

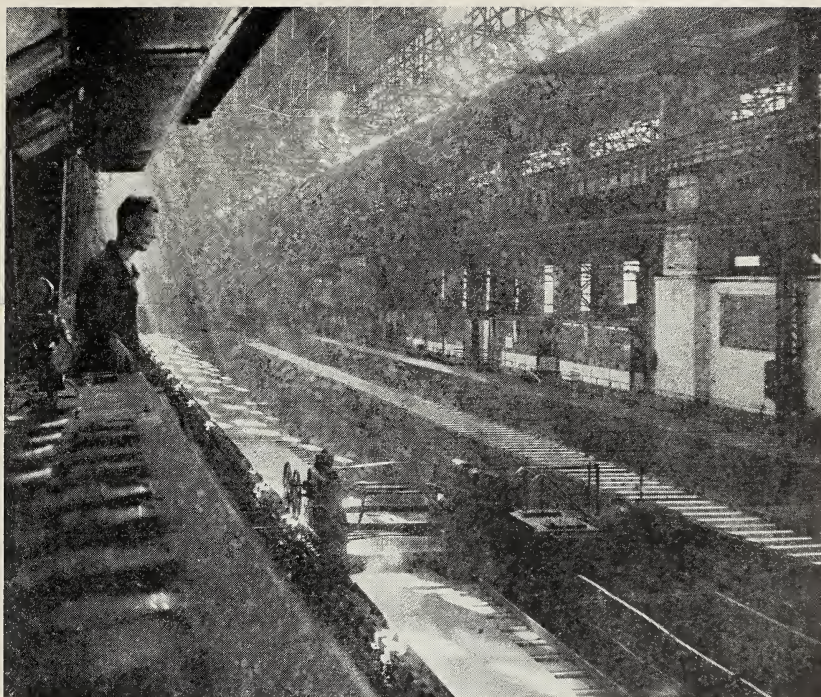
Increase in output of consumer goods (main items):

#### Light Industry

	Cotton Fabrics In millions of metres	Woollen Fabrics In millions of metres	Footwear In millions of pairs
1950 ..	3,899	155	226
1955 ..	5,904	251	299
1960 ..	7,270	363	455
(Plan)			

#### Food Industry

	Granulated Sugar	Meat (processed)	Butter and other dairy products in terms of milk	Vegetable oil
(In millions of tons)				
1950 ..	2.5	1.3	8.5	0.8
1955 ..	3.4	2.2	13.5	1.1
1960 ..	6.5	3.9	25.0	1.8
(Plan)				

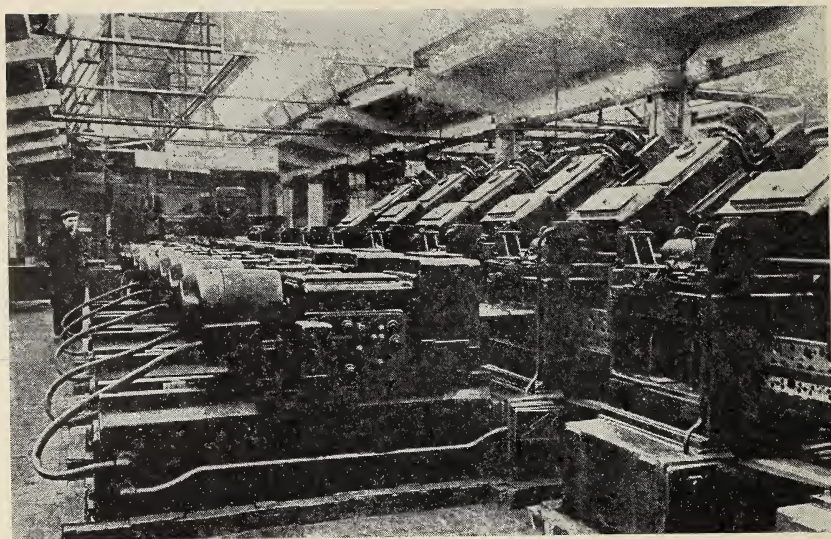


*In the thin sheet rolling section of an iron and steel mill at Zaporozhe in the Ukraine.*

*Oil from the bed of the sea. These derricks stand in the Caspian Sea, and are part of the oil industry of the Azerbaijan S.S.R.*





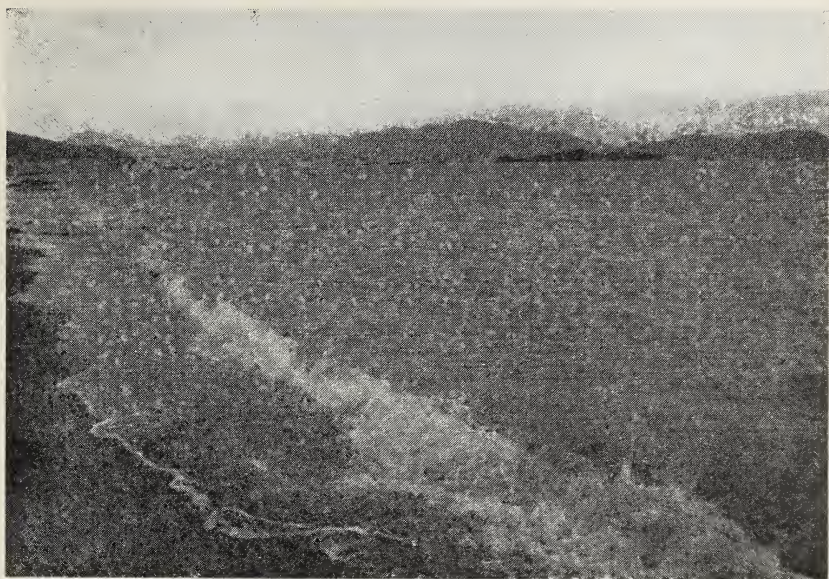


*Automation is making rapid strides in the U.S.S.R., and is decreasing toil and increasing output. Here are automatic transfer machines in the diesel shop of the Minsk tractor plant.*

*New two-family houses for workers on the Karavaevo State Farm.*







*Looking almost like the sea, the Kara-Kul Lake is 14,000 feet above sea-level in the Pamirs (Tajik S.S.R.) near the highest mountains in the U.S.S.R.—the Lenin and Stalin peaks.*

**Power Stations:** Huge hydroelectric stations are under construction. Their total capacity will increase 2.7 times in the sixth five-year period, and of turbine stations, 2.2 times.

Single power systems are being set up in the European part of the U.S.S.R., Transcaucasia and Central Siberia (from Novosibirsk to Irkutsk).

The world's first industrial atomic power plant with a capacity of 5,000 kilowatts was commissioned in the U.S.S.R. in 1954. Atomic power plants with a total capacity of 2-2.5 million kilowatts will be built in 1956-1960, including two stations with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts in the Urals and one with a capacity of 400,000 kilowatts near Moscow. Work has been launched on the development of atomic power installations for transport purposes; an icebreaker with an atomic engine is being built. Radioactive radiations are being employed on an ever wider scale in industry, agriculture and medicine.

The task has been set of converting Siberia in the next ten years into a major producer of coal and electric power in the U.S.S.R. and the main centre of industries consuming much heat and power, especially the production of aluminium, magnesium and titanium, and also of the electrical-metallurgical, coal-chemical and electrical-chemical industries. The country's third powerful iron and steel centre is to be developed in Siberia within 10-15 years (the first two centres are in the south of the European part of the U.S.S.R. and in the Urals-Kuznetsk area).

**Agriculture:** The U.S.S.R. is a country of large-scale mechanised agriculture. There are about 90,000 collective farms (agricultural producers' co-operatives), 5,134 state farms, and 9,000 state M.T.S. (machine and tractor stations).

In 1955 agriculture had more than 1,739,000 tractors (in terms of 15-h.p. units), 350,000 grain combines, 544,000 motor vehicles, and hundreds of thousands of other farm machines, many of them highly specialised.

#### *Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic.*





Machines performed 82 per cent of the main field work in the collective farms in 1954.

The introduction of scientific methods of farming, the wide use of fertilisers, land reclamation, the development of drainage and irrigation projects, and the planting of shelter belts on a vast scale have assured a constant increase in yields.

The Sixth Five-Year Plan calls for the delivery to agriculture of approximately 1,650,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units),

560,000 grain combines, 180,000 windrowers, 400,000 pickups for combines, and many more agricultural machines.

Several million acres have been brought into cultivation in a campaign to plough virgin and long-fallow land. It is planned to add approximately 70 million acres from this source in 1956.

**Areas under cultivation etc.:** Forest land 44 per cent of total territory, pasture land 11 per cent, arable land 9 per cent, grassland 2 per



*The top picture shows palm trees on a tea-plantation at Chakvin, Georgia. But the climate ranges from the sub-tropical to scenes like the one below, where a plane flies over the ice-bound tundra of the Soviet north.*







*Packing pears on the Chkalov Collective Farm in the Crimea.*

cent, orchards and gardens 0.5 per cent, non-agricultural land 31 per cent.

This last figure is being eaten into as virgin and is ploughed.

**Climate:** Great extremes both in temperature and humidity are found.

In the north there is an annual mean temperature below zero Centigrade, whilst in the Crimea (south side) more than  $+13^{\circ}$  C. is averaged.

The warmest place in the Soviet Union is in Turkmenia, where there is an annual average temperature of  $+17^{\circ}$  C.

The coldest place in the Soviet Union (and in the world) is the town of Verkhoyansk in the Yakut A.S.S.R. in Eastern Siberia, which has an annual average temperature of seventeen degrees below freezing point. When it gets really cold (in January) it drops to  $-52^{\circ}$  C.

This place has also the greatest temperature range—from  $-52^{\circ}$  C. in winter to  $+15^{\circ}$  C. in summer (July).

**Soil:** The south-eastern area of the Soviet Union in Europe is largely composed of "black earth"—a rich prolific soil containing from 4 to 16 per cent of organic substances. The total surface of this region exceeds 270 million acres.

The non-black soil, largely found elsewhere in the north-west, is a clay soil having little humus and low fertility.

The main grain crops are wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, millet and maize. The task of bringing up the total grain harvest to 185 million tons by 1960 is well under way (in 1913

Russia produced 38.3 million tons of marketable grain).

The Soviet Union holds first place for the production of wheat. In 1954 it occupied approximately 113 million acres—about half of which was sown to "hard" wheat.

*Gathering cucumbers—a very popular food in the U.S.S.R.*







*Cultivating sunflowers, Krasnodar Territory. The Soviet Union produces more than half of the world's sunflower seeds, grown for edible oil, cattle and poultry feed.*

Fruit-growing and grape-growing play a big part in the country's agriculture. Rice, tea and citrus fruits are grown in the southern regions.

Many crops are moving north into latitudes where previously they were unknown. This has been greatly facilitated by the application of the methods of Ivan Michurin, the outstanding biologist (1855-1935).

The main industrial crops are cotton, flax, sugar beet, sunflower and tobacco.

The chief cotton-growing areas are Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Kirghizia, Southern Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

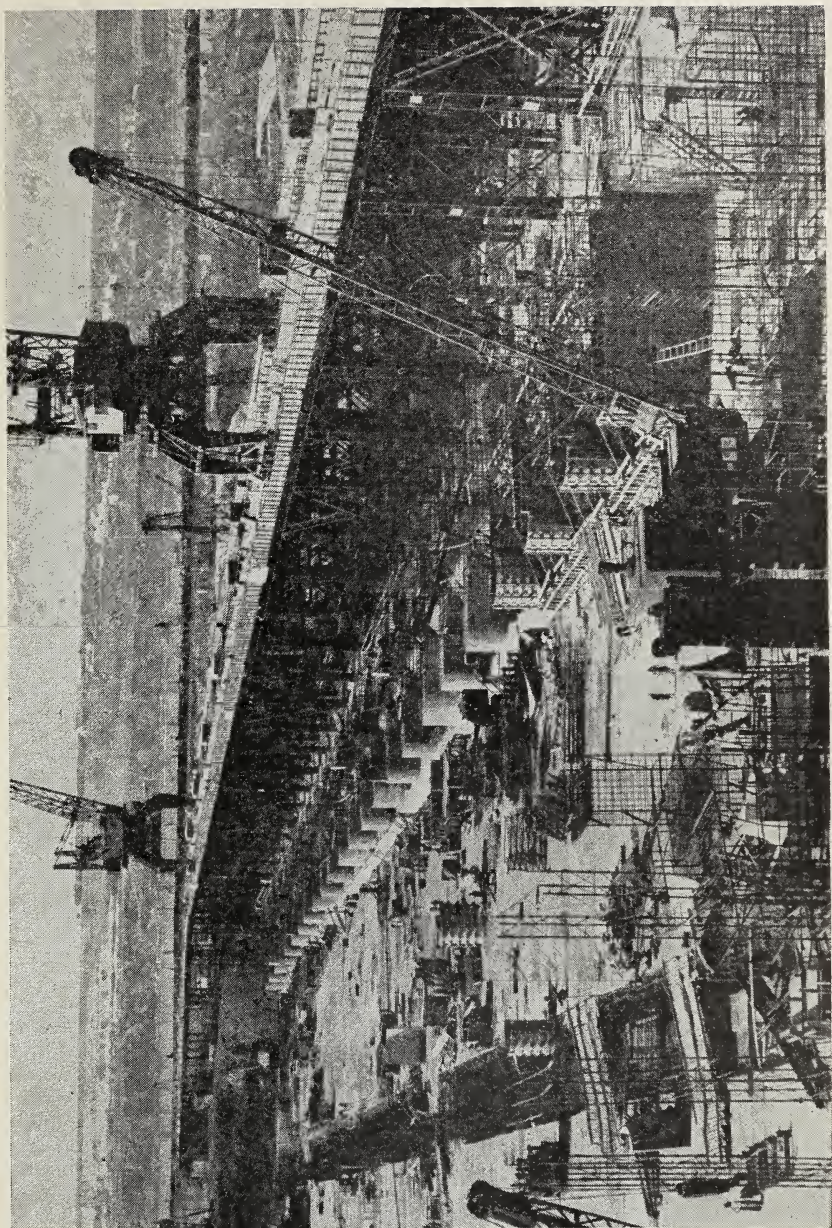
**Animal Husbandry:** On 1 October 1954 there were almost 65 million head of beef and dairy cattle (including 27,500,000 cows), 51 million hogs, and over 117 million sheep.

Mechanisation of the livestock sections in collective and state farms is expanding and the productivity of the cattle is increasing. New, highly productive breeds have been evolved.

*Cotton-picking in the Tajik S.S.R.*



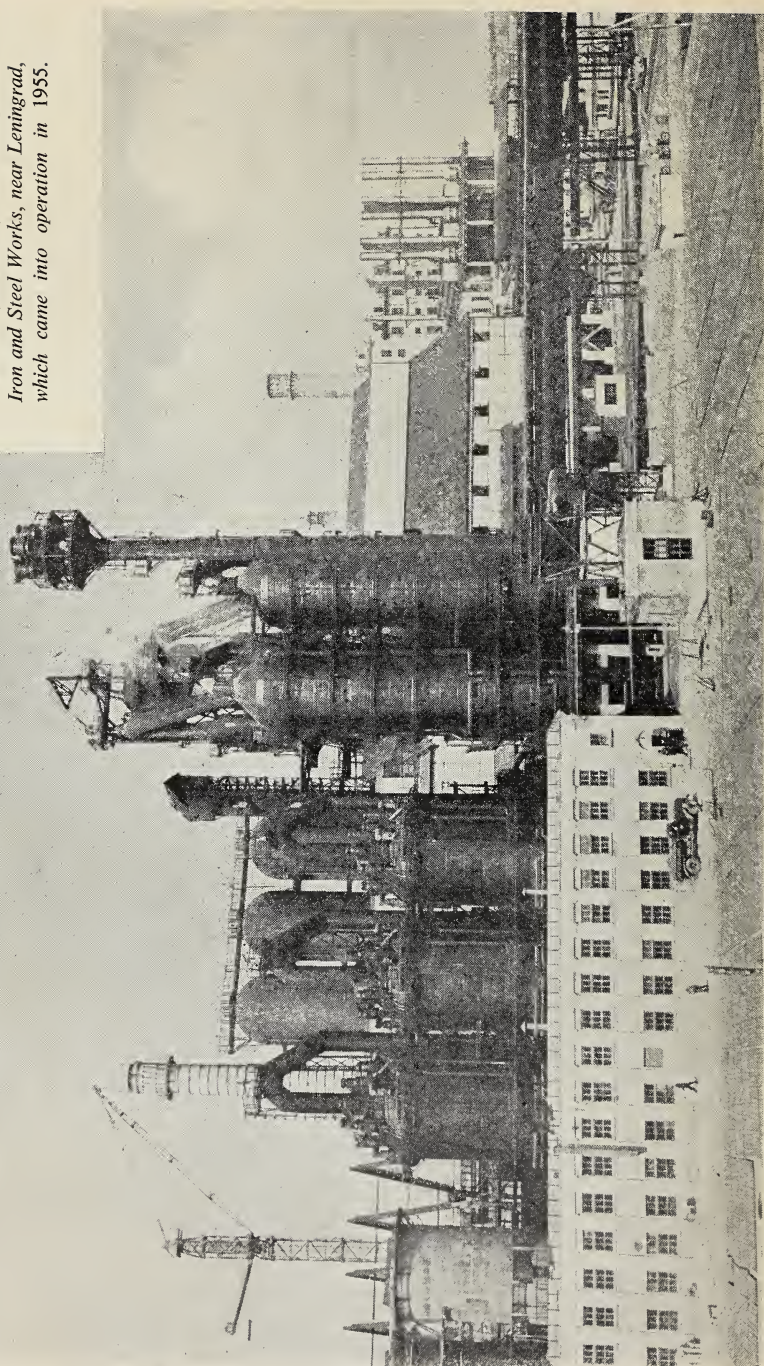




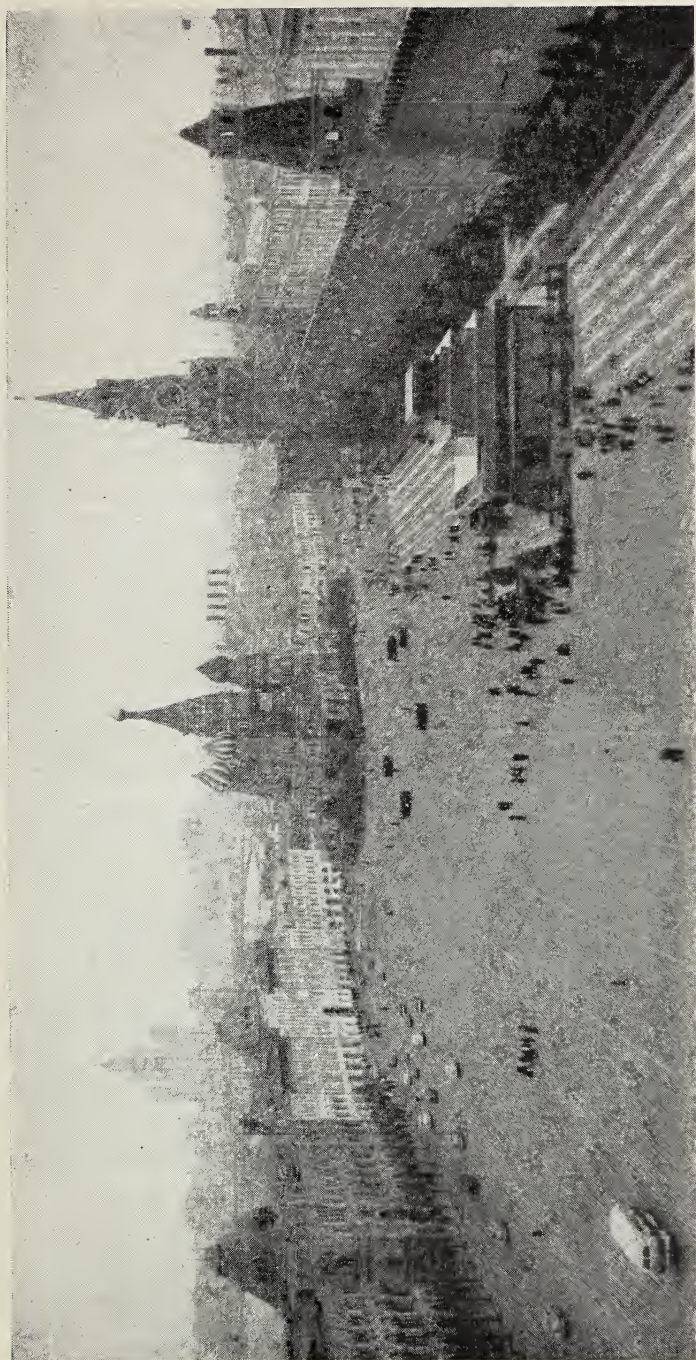
*The world's biggest hydro-electric networks are coming into being in the Soviet Union as river after river is harnessed. This picture, taken in September 1954, shows the dam and spillway at Kakhovka (Dnieper) under construction. By October 1955 it was producing electricity.*



*The blast furnace of the Cherepovets  
Iron and Steel Works, near Leningrad,  
which came into operation in 1955.*







*The Red Square—at the heart of Moscow. From left to right: G.U.M. department store; Kotelnicheskaya Building; Execution Block of the Tsars on which among others, Stenka Razin met his death; St. Basil's Cathedral (Pokrovsky Sobor Museum); Moscow Electricity Station; new University building behind on skyline; Mausoleum; Kremlin with Spassky Gate and Clock Tower.*







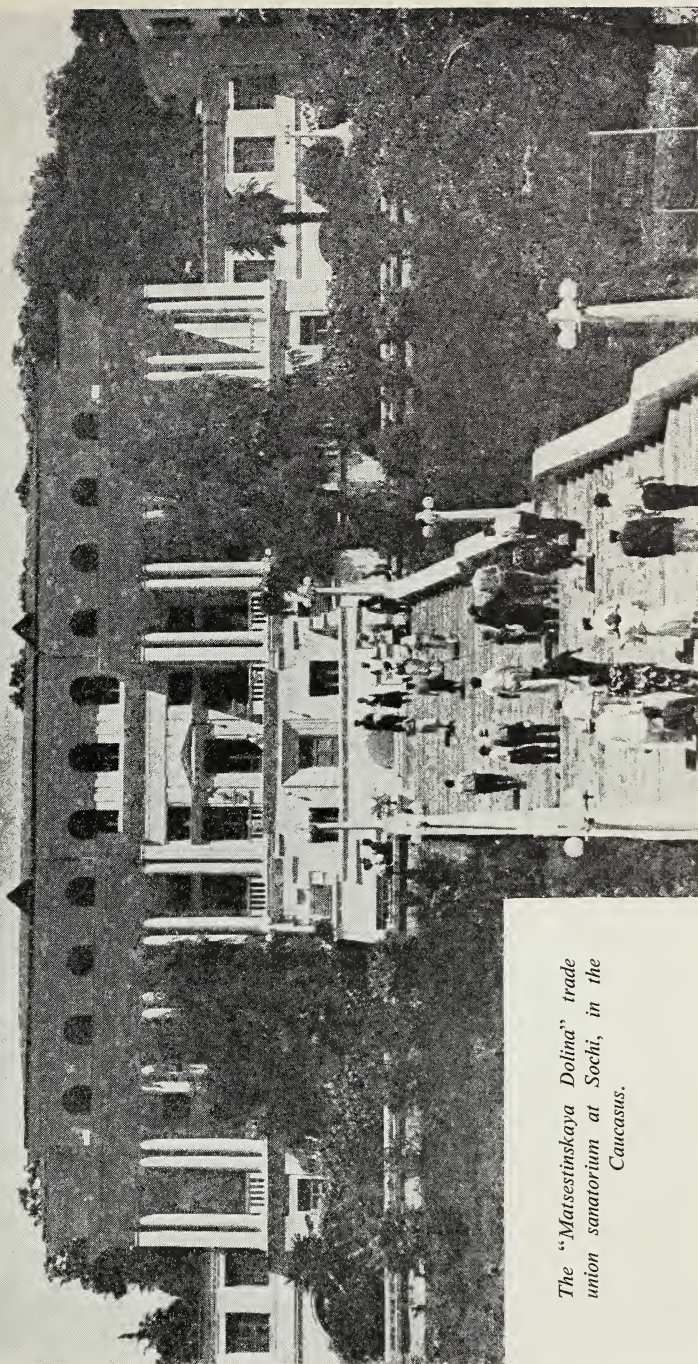


*The building of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in Kiev.*

*Government House, Tashkent, in which sits the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic.*

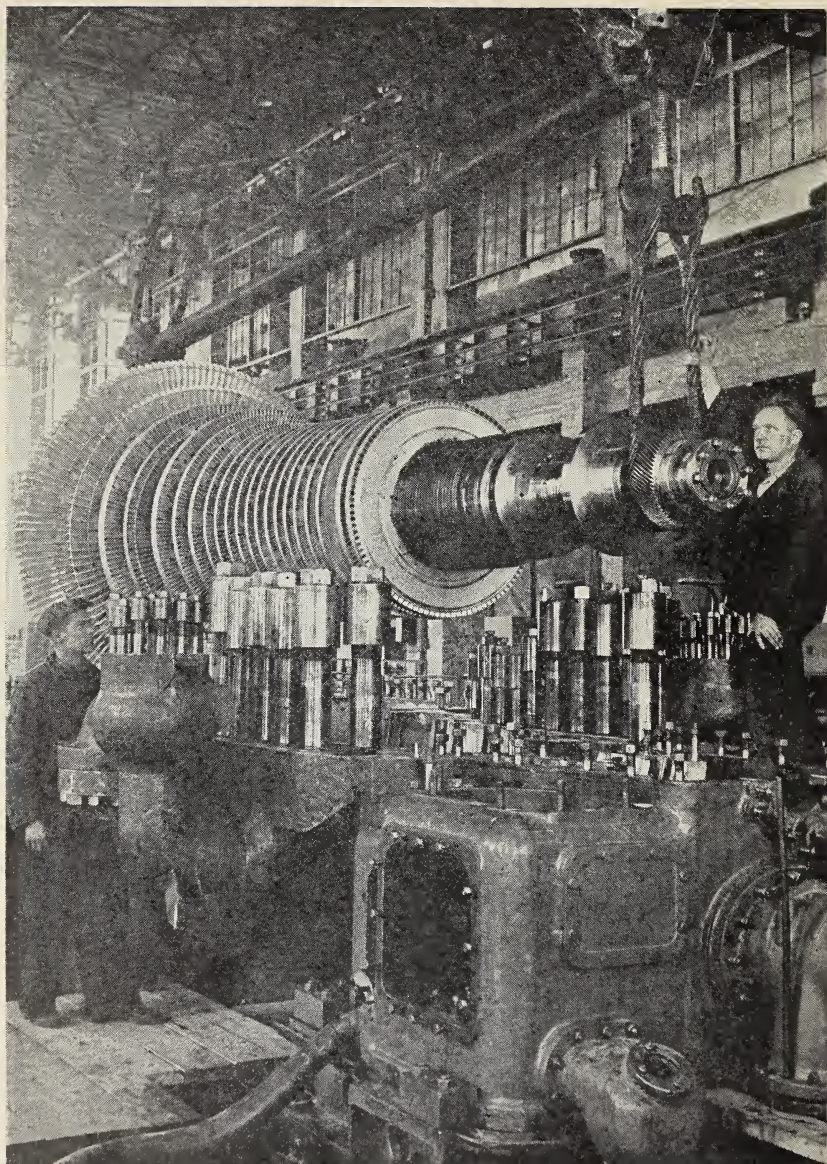






*The "Matsestinskaya Dolina" trade  
union sanatorium at Sochi, in the  
Caucasus.*





*Industry now accounts for by far the largest amount of Soviet output, in a country which not very long ago was predominantly agricultural. Above, we see the assembly of a steam turbine in an engineering works in Riga, capital of the Latvian S.S.R.*



## TRANSPORT

Railways predominate (85 per cent in the total transport tonnage). The U.S.S.R. holds first place in the world for passenger traffic (the figure for 1955 was over 1,650 million), and for length of electrified lines (over 5,000 miles in 1955). The newest railway line is the Moscow-Peking, by way of the Mongolian People's Republic. The new link, 650 miles long, runs from Ulan-Ude in Buryat-Mongolia, through Ulan-Bator (the M.P.R. capital), across the Gobi Desert, to Peking, saving 622 miles over the old circuitous route.

The line rises to 5,740 feet at the Khentei Pass, for 105 miles of its length is cut through rock, and crosses a forbidding desert. Yet it only took three years to build—and was opened on 3 January 1956.

The total length of railway track in the Soviet Union (including electric) was 72,420 miles at the end of 1955.

The new (Sixth) Five-Year Plan to reach fulfilment by 1960 envisages the following developments for railway transport: goods turnover of the lines to be increased to 1,374,000 million ton/kilometres (42 per cent increase on 1955); introduction of diesel and electric locomotives to handle up to 45 per cent of the entire goods turnover; addition of 255,000 modern goods wagons and 18,600 coaches; 4,000 miles of new track (twice what was built in the previous Plan); 5,000 miles of lines to be electrified; 4,000 miles of line to be made double-track.

Inland waterways are becoming increasingly important as cargo-carriers. In 1955 the figure exceeded 67,000 million ton/kilometres. The main shipping canals built in Soviet times are: the Stalin White Sea-Baltic Canal, the Moscow Canal (linking the Volga and Moscow rivers) and the Lenin Volga-Don Canal.

Cargo on inland waterways is to be increased 80 per cent by 1960.



*Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.*

The inland waterways are to be replenished with faster vessels during the next five years.

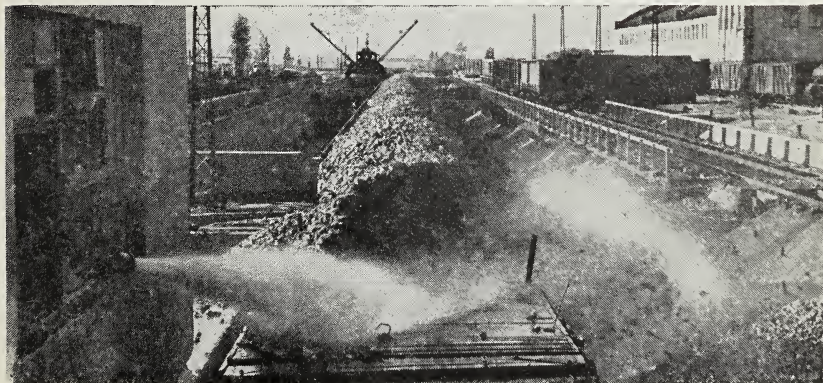
Inland water transport will add 720,000 h.p. in tugs and self-propelled vessels; towed vessels (barges etc.) with a cargo capacity of 2,250,000 tons, and passenger ships totalling 180,000 h.p.

**Sea Ports:** the most important seaports are: Leningrad, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Riga, Odessa, Novorossisk, and Vladivostok.

The cargo turnover of the merchant fleet is to be more than doubled, and the equipment and capacity of the ports increased to deal with it.

It is to have more economical vessels of higher speed, adding a dry-cargo carrying capacity of 1,140,000 tons, oil-tankers to carry nearly half a million tons, 198,000 h.p. of passenger vessels, and tugs totalling 230,000 h.p.

*Unloading sugar-beet by means of a powerful jet of water.*

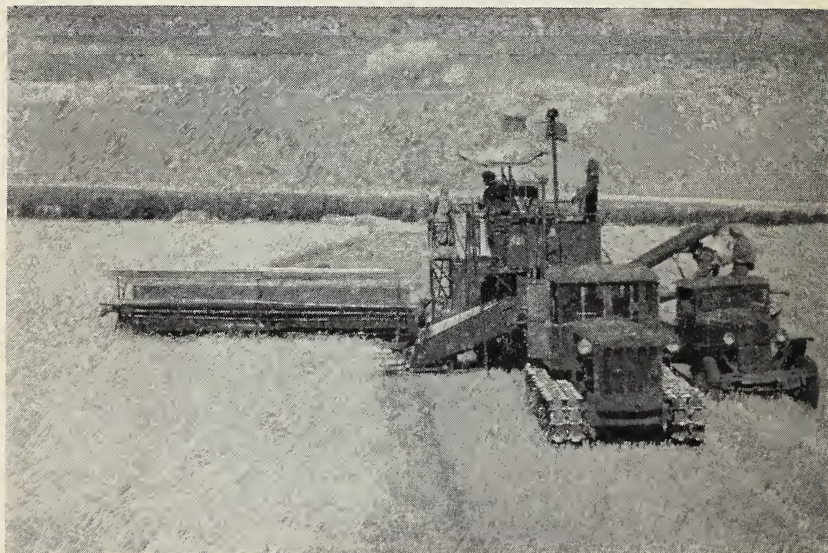






*Ploughing up virgin land. Refuelling a tractor on the Borkovsky State Farm, Kustanai Region, Kazakhstan.*

*Harvesting wheat on the Andreyev Collective Farm near Kursk.*



Air Transport has been greatly developed, and a very wide coverage by regular routes and schedules is maintained over the Soviet Union, whilst air links with other countries are increasing.

Road Transport is also increasing. 1954 showed a four-fold increase over 1940, and

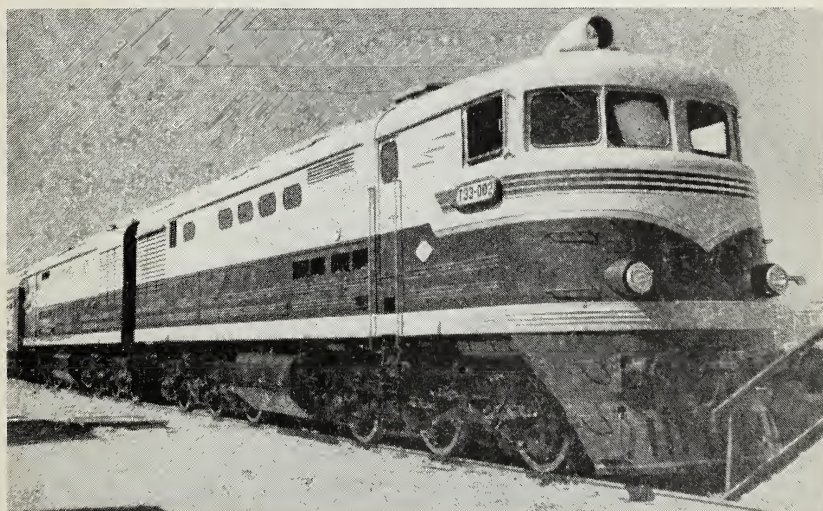
the building of new traction and new roads and servicing stations will lead to greater development. Goods turnover is to double by 1960. General carriage will step up its turnover to 40,000 million ton/kilometres by 1960—over four times as much as 1955.





*A troika is a sledge or carriage drawn by three horses. The bow of wood over the centre horse is a "duga", which is fastened by thongs to shafts and harness.*

*The Kharkov-built diesel locomotive TEZ, which develops 4,000 h.p. and reaches 62 m.p.h.*





*The twin-jet passenger plane Tupilov 104 at Moscow Airport.*

## TRADE

Home Trade is carried on by state trading organisations and (in rural localities) by consumers' co-operatives. There are also collective farm markets in towns and villages.

Foreign Trade is a state monopoly. In 1954 the U.S.S.R. traded with fifty-six countries. Total foreign trade in 1953 amounted to 23,000 million roubles.

Operations are transacted through special export and import organisations, each handling specific commodities. These bodies have authority to conclude contracts with foreign firms or associations.

Trade treaties and agreements are also concluded between the Soviet Union and other countries at Government level concerning the volume and price of goods to be bought or exchanged.

*The Lensoviet is an 18-knot turbo-electric ship which carries 546 passengers across the Black Sea between Batumi and Odessa.*





## LABOUR, AND THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE WORKERS

**Unemployment:** There has been no unemployment in the U.S.S.R. for over a quarter of a century.

**Hours:** In 1956—five 8-hour days and 6 hours on Saturdays and eve-of-holidays. Total 46. The 6-hour day for youth (16-18) re-introduced 1956. 1957-1960 will see the introduction of 7-hour day for factory and office workers (five 7-hour days and 6-hour Saturday—total 41 per week).

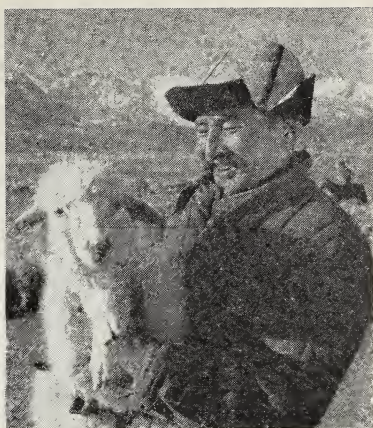
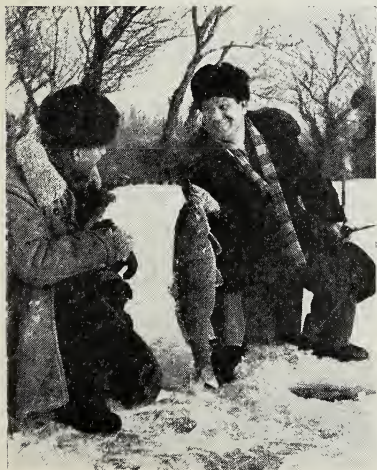
Face-workers in coal and ore mines and workers in hot-shops are first to have hours reduced—to 6-hour day, 6-day week—total 36 hours. In some industries, where expedient, a 5-day week of 8-hour days will be introduced—total 40 hours. No pay reductions will result from shortened hours.

**Wages:** In 1954 the national income was more than fourteen times higher than that of 1913 and it is planned to increase it over 60 per cent (in comparable prices) by 1960. About three-quarters of the national income goes to satisfy the personal requirements—material and cultural—of the workers. During the period 1947-1954 the state reduced the prices of consumer goods seven times, thus considerably increasing the purchasing power of wages.

Most wages are composed of basic rates plus piece-rate earnings. The rates of pay are arrived at between managements and the trade unions.

**Trade Unions:** There is a trade union for each industry, membership being voluntary. A

*A popular winter sport is fishing through a hole in the ice of a frozen river.*



*A Kirghizian shepherd with one of his charges in the high mountain pastures of Karasai in the Tian Shan.*

worker joins the union of the industry in which he is engaged, irrespective of his particular craft (e.g. an electrician and a boiler-maker engaged in a shipyard would both be members of the Shipbuilders' Union).

Trade union membership in 1954 was over 40,000,000.

**Holidays:** All industrial and office workers get an annual paid holiday of from twelve to twenty-four working days.

**Benefits and Pensions:** Institutions and industrial undertakings make contributions to the state social insurance fund, which is administered by the trade unions and is used for the payment of sick benefits, maternity leave, and

*Wolf-hunting: S. Zhdanov loads two kills on to a sledge in the Komi Autonomous Republic.*

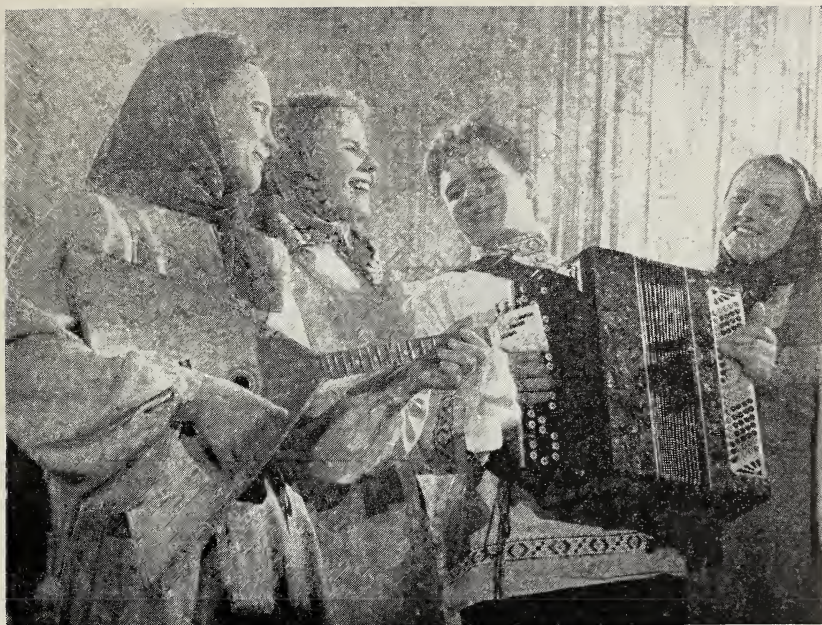






*The Soviet Union has the highest consumption of honey per head in the world. The word for honey, myed, is related to the English "mead"—a drink made from honey. The Russian word for a bear is "medvyed"—"honey-knower". Above are the beehives of the Pravda Collective Farm in the Ukraine, where orchards, melon fields, and vineyards assure them a good harvest of nectar.*





*Traditional musical instruments: the balalaika (played by Galina Kiseleva) and the accordion (played by Mikhail Klimov) and singers at a folk talent festival.*

similar payments. The state also pays allowances to mothers of big families and unmarried mothers, pensions to the aged and invalid.

In 1954 the payments and benefits received in such social service, over and above their incomes, amounted to 146,000 million roubles.

**Old Age Pensions:** All wage and salaried workers are entitled to old age pensions varying from 50 to 60 per cent of their pay according to their years of service.

Men are entitled to this pension at the age of sixty, after twenty-five years at work, whilst women qualify at fifty-five after twenty years at work.

In certain of the arduous and injurious trades (coal, metallurgy and chemical industries, for instance) the pension age is fifty, and payable after twenty years at work.

These pensions are in addition to wages, if the worker should wish to continue at work.

Certain categories of non-industrial workers (e.g. teachers, pharmacists, doctors, veterinary surgeons) are entitled to an old age pension of 40 to 50 per cent of earnings after twenty-five to thirty years at work. They are usually known as long-service pensions.

**Other pensions:** The dependants of a deceased wage or salaried worker are entitled to a pension, based on the number and circumstances—varying from 50 to 125 per cent of the pension which the breadwinner would have received as a Group 11 invalid ("unable to

follow his occupation").

**Widows' pensions:** In many cases a widow would herself be employed and not in need of assistance, but in cases where members of a bereaved family were dependants a widow (or widower) would receive half the pension due to the deceased had he been an invalid, and a quarter of the pension to each other dependant member of the family.

All money for such social service payments comes from the state—non-contributory—and is entirely in charge of the trade unions.

**Taxes:** Income tax is paid monthly, varying from 18 roubles on a wage of 400 roubles to 147 roubles on a wage of 1,500 roubles per month.

The maximum tax does not exceed 13 per cent of the income.

There are small additional taxes on those without children—or with up to two children only. Men (20-50) and women (20-45) pay 6 per cent of income if childless, 1 per cent if they have one child and half per cent if they have two children. People with three or more children do not pay this tax.

Servicemen and their wives, disabled persons, and Soviet citizens whose sons or daughters were killed in action or missing in the Second World War, are exempt.

**Rent:** Rent cannot exceed 1 rouble 32 kopecks per month per square metre (1.2 sq. yds.) of living space. As a rule this does not

## A COLLECTIVE FARM MARKET



*A busy scene in the Collective Farm Market in Riga, capital of Latvia.*



exceed 4 to 5 per cent of a worker's earnings. The state fixes the rents, and any arbitrary increase is punishable.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Citizens of the U.S.S.R. receive all forms of medical aid free of charge, at the expense of the state. Appropriations for public health services in 1955 amounted to 32,700 million roubles—almost three times the amount for 1940. The network of medical institutions is constantly growing. In 1955 there were 333,700 physicians and 900,000 junior medical personnel. A big network of sanatoriums and rest homes has been built up numbering 3,873 at the end of 1955.



*The hospital of the mountain village of Gunib in Daghestan, set against folded layers of rock.*

There are now 1,290,000 hospital beds available—in 1913 the figure was 200,000.

Much attention is given to physical culture and sports and all activity tending towards a preservation of health. Millions of children spend the summer in outdoor camps.

As a result of such measures the mortality rate has been cut by two-thirds compared with 1913, and the birth rate has sharply increased. Many diseases (smallpox, cholera, relapsing fever etc.) have been stamped out completely, and other diseases (malaria, trachoma etc.) have become quite rare. The mortality rate from tuberculosis has been halved.

In 1955 the number of births was 25.6 per

1,000 of the population. The death rate was 8.4 per 1,000. The rate of growth of the population was 17.2 per 1,000.

**Sick Pay:** Benefits ranging from 50 to 90 per cent of a worker's earnings (depending on length of service with the undertaking) are paid from the first day of disability until permitted by the doctor to return to work.

A worker receives similar payments if he or she is obliged to stay at home to care for a sick member of the family.

**Maternity Leave Benefits** are paid to women who have worked at a given enterprise for not less than three months. A lump sum is paid on the birth of the child and a special feeding and layette allowance is made.

## EDUCATION

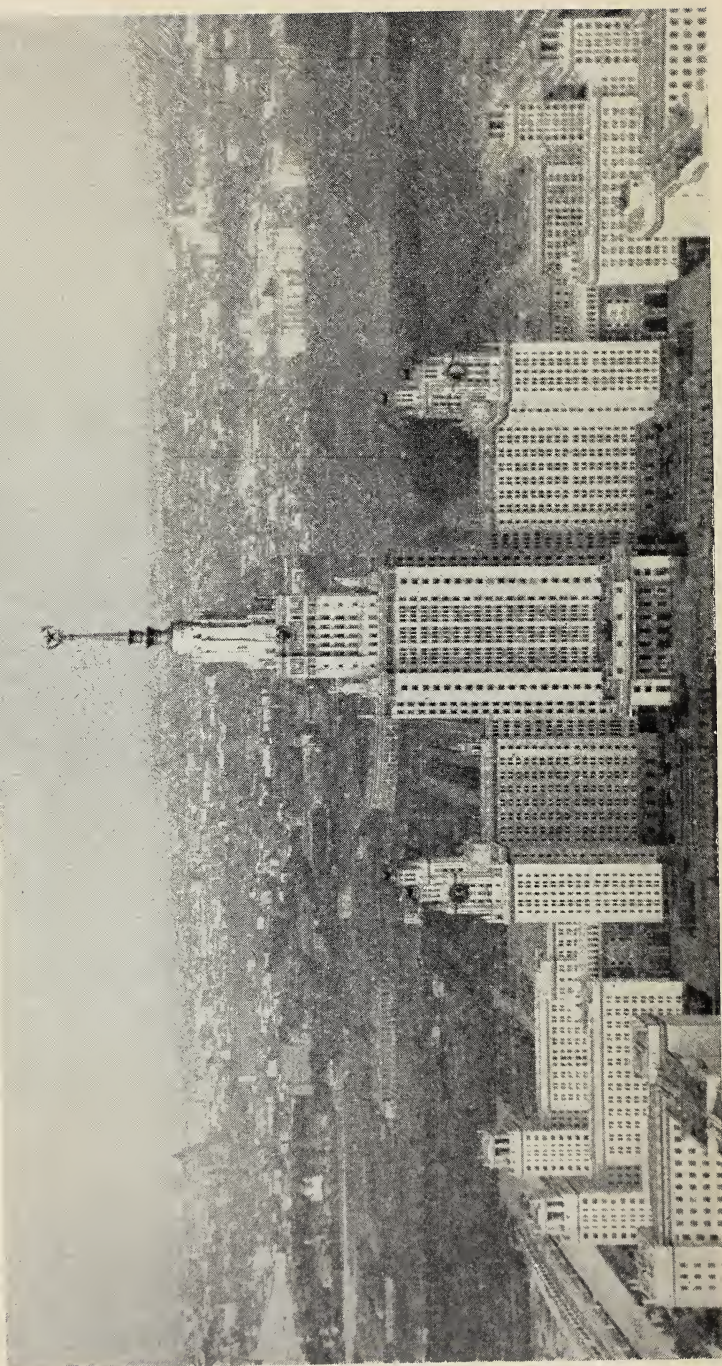
The U.S.S.R. is a country of universal literacy, and almost 50 million people are studying. Universal seven-year schooling, which is free and obligatory, is in force. The transition to a similar ten-year schooling is now being effected. Polytechnical instruction is being widely introduced in the school system.

During 1955, nearly 35 million people studied in general and specialised secondary schools.

In 1956-1960, 6.3 million pupils are to be graduated from the tenth grade of secondary



*The new buildings of Moscow State University on the Lenin Hills, behind the main tower can be seen the recently built Central Stadium.*





schools—more than twice as many as in the preceding five years.

**Creches and kindergartens:** There are great numbers of such pre-school institutions, together with children's homes (for orphans), houses and palaces of Pioneers, young naturalists' club-rooms, technical hobby centres etc., all of which add to a child's knowledge, before, during and after ordinary schooling.

A big chain of special vocational training and technical schools has been set up. The U.S.S.R. possesses 765 higher educational establishments (including evening and correspondence schools). Among them are 33 universities. In 1955 they had a total student body of 1,867,000.

The annual average of graduates during the 1951-55 Plan had been 227,000 from higher educational institutes and 312,000 specialists from the technical schools.

During 1956-1960, it is planned to train 4 million specialists, that is, almost as many as during the preceding ten years; higher educational establishments are to prepare more than 650,000 engineers for industry and transport, building construction and as agricultural specialists—twice as many as were trained during the fifth Five-Year Plan.

In 1956, higher technical and agricultural educational establishments will graduate more than 97,000 engineers and other specialists, compared with about 49,000 in 1950.

The U.S.S.R. has over 123,000 clubs and similar institutions, and about 390,000 libraries with a total of 1,200 million books.

*Vasilya Tsyuperyak, a Ukrainian milkmaid on the Barakanyuk Collective Farm, Uzhgorod Region.*



**Books:** A total of 14,000 million books was issued in the U.S.S.R. from 1917 to 1952 in 122 languages, including 86 of the languages of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. Nearly 1,000 million books were put out in 1955.

**Newspapers:** In 1955 there were 7,200 different newspapers, printed in seventy Soviet languages, with a total circulation of 49 million copies. In the same year there were 2,026 magazines and periodicals in publication.

**Radio broadcasting** is conducted in more than a hundred languages.

**Television** is widely available, and experimental colour television has been broadcast now for over a year. A feature of this is that a system is being developed whereby the same set will receive both black and white and colour transmission.

By 1960 there are to be at least seventy-five T.V. stations and some of the present ones will go over to colour.

Stations are now building in twenty towns. Four of them (in Tbilisi, Baku, Tashkent and Yerevan) will open in 1956 and another, in Stalingrad, will open in 1957.

The Crimea and South Sakhalin are to have their own stations.

## SCIENCE

Science in the U.S.S.R. has been developed on an exceedingly large scale. Opening up new horizons in theory, it at the same time is most intimately connected with the practical work of everyday needs and fully serves the people.

The state lavishly finances scientific institutions, and scientists are provided with the most favourable conditions for their creative work.

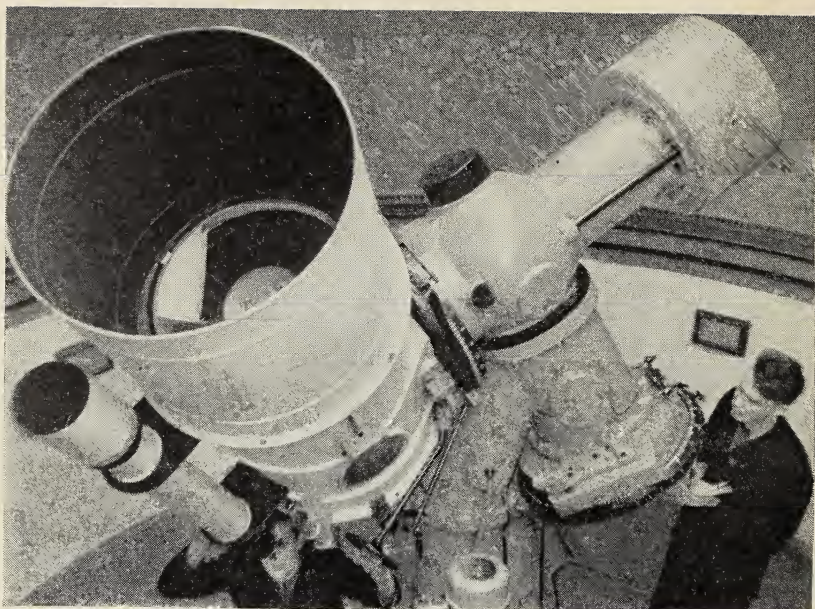
The Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., founded in 1724, unites many research institutes in all fields of knowledge, and has its branches, scientific stations and observatories in different parts of the country.

Thirteen of the Union Republics have their own Academies of Sciences, wherein most of the scientific workers are from among the nationalities to be found in the particular Republic.

In addition, there are academies in specialised fields such as the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Academy of Construction and Architecture, the Academy of Arts and the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of the R.S.F.S.R.

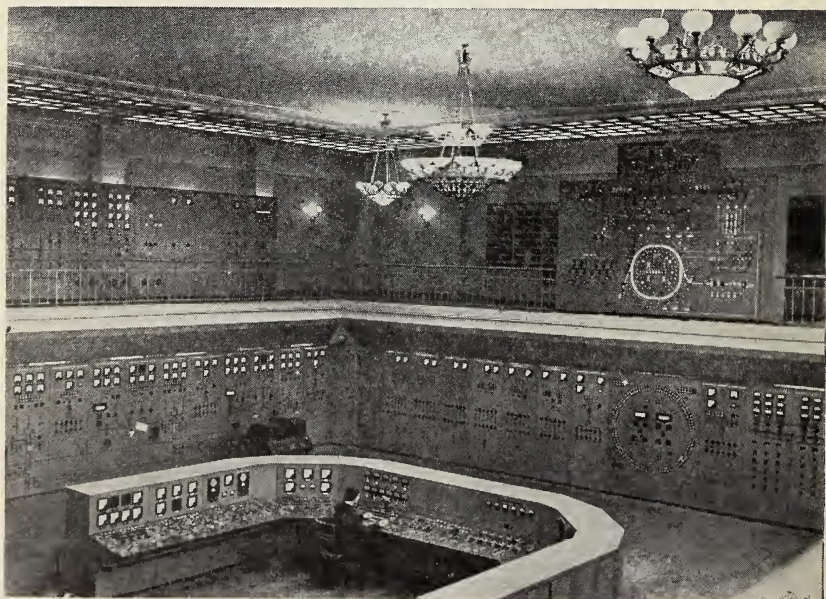
Much original research is carried on at the universities and other institutes of higher learning. Many Ministries also have their own scientific research establishments. Altogether there are about 3,000 scientific institutions and 224,000 scientific workers in the U.S.S.R.

Among the achievements of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, perhaps the most widely known is the establishment of the first atomic energy electricity station near Moscow in 1954.



*Soviet astronomers have made considerable additions to our knowledge of the heavens. This 50 cm. meniscus telescope (Maksutov type) is in the Pulkovo Observatory near Leningrad.*

*The control desk of the biggest proton-synchrotron (ten thousand million electron volts acceleration). Its circular electric-magnet is nearly 200 feet in diameter and weighs 36,000 tons.*





## LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

Literature and the arts have made great, unparalleled progress in Soviet times. The Union of Writers of the U.S.S.R. had 3,247 members and 526 candidates for membership at the beginning of 1956. Book production figures for 1953 include 2,733 titles of Russian belles-lettres in editions totalling 159,801,000 copies. In the same year 1,552 works by writers of the many Soviet nationalities were published in a total of 38,526,000 copies.

The Soviet Union has more than 500 theatres; over 192,000 performances in forty languages were given in 1953 to a total audience exceeding 69 million.

There are some fifty large symphony orchestras and several hundred other instrumental, choir, and dance groups.

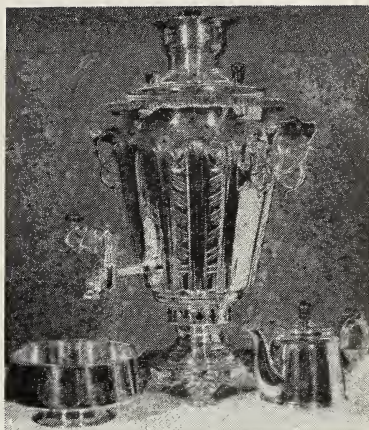
In 1954 there were about 5 million members of 350,000 musical and amateur theatrical groups.

Cinema installations in 1953 exceeded 59,000, with a total cinema attendance in that year of 1,647 million.

The number of film-projectors is to be increased 30 per cent by 1960, and the Ministry of Culture is building new cinemas with a total seating capacity of 500,000 during this period.

The film target during the present Five-Year Plan is at least 120 full-length films per year.

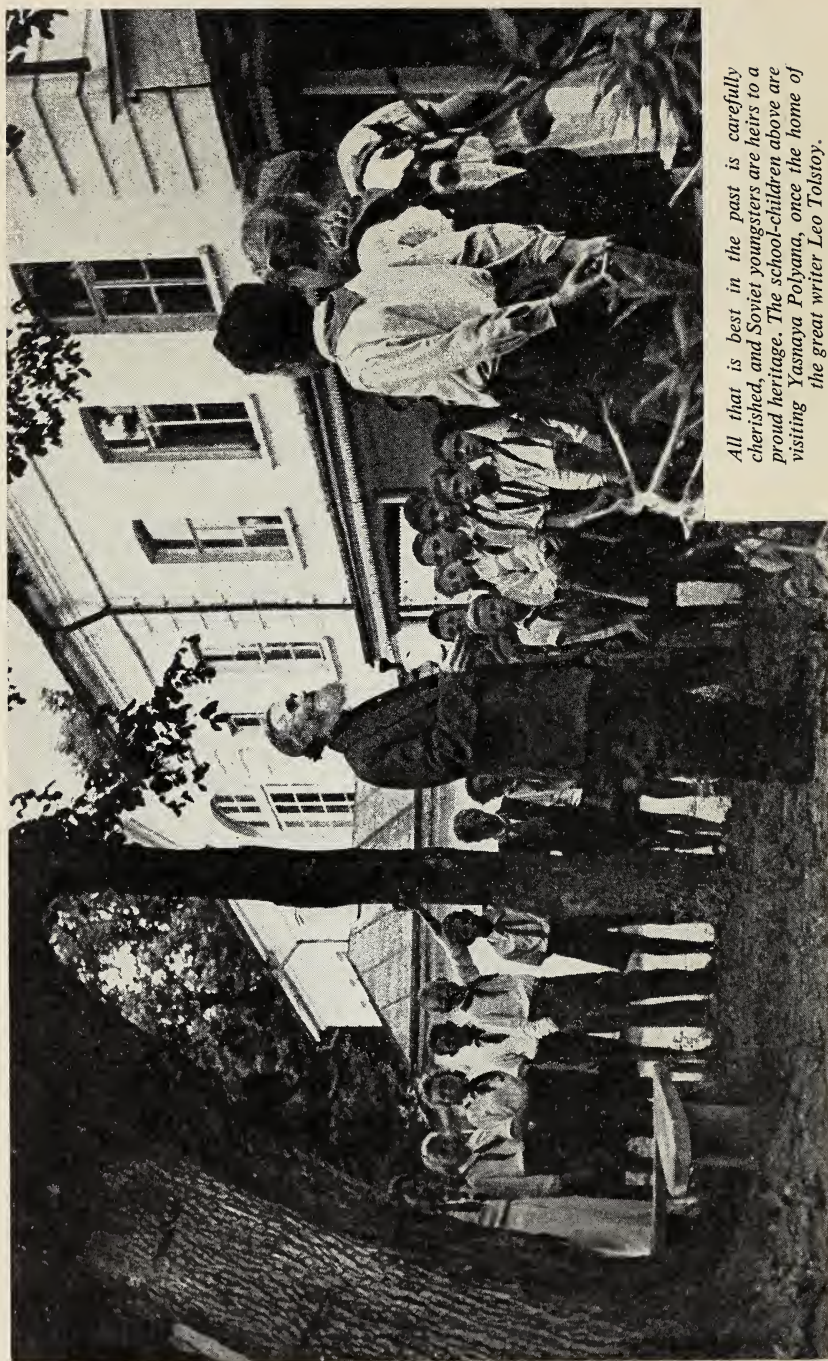
*Grading caviar—sturgeon's roe—in an Astrakhan fish-processing factory.*



*Common to many a Russian household is the samovar ("automatic-heater"). This one is pictured with its accompanying slop-basin and teapot. The samovar, which may be heated by charcoal or electricity, holds hot water. The teapot with its strong tea often stands on top to be kept warm. The town of Tula is famous for its samovars and turns out over 750,000 a year.*

## OLD AND NEW NAMES OF SOVIET TOWNS

Old Name	New Name
Alexandropol	Leninakan
Bakhmut	Artemovsk
Berdichev	Osipenko
Ekaterinburg	Sverdlovsk
Ekaterinodar	Krasnodar
Ekaterinoslav	Dnepropetrovsk
Elisavetgrad	Kirovo
Insternberg	Sovietsk
Konigsberg	Kaliningrad
Kozlov	Michurinsk
Khibinogorsk	Kirovsk
Lugansk	Voroshilovgrad
Mariupol	Zhdanov
Nizhni-Novgorod	Gorky
Novo-Nikolaevsk	Novosibirsk
Orenburg	Chkalov
Petrograd (St. Petersburg)	Leningrad
Pishpek	Frunze
Perm	Molotov
Romanovsk	Kropotkin
Rybinsk	Shcherbakov
Samara	Kuibyshev
Simbirsk	Ulyanovsk
Stavropol	Voroshilovsk
Tiflis	Tbilisi
Tsaritsyn	Stalingrad
Tver	Kalinin
Viatka	Kirov
Vladikavkaz (Dzardjikau)	Ordzhonikidze
Yuzovka	Stalino



*All that is best in the past is carefully cherished, and Soviet youngsters are heirs to a proud heritage. The school-children above are visiting Yasnaya Polyana, once the home of the great writer Leo Tolstoy.*





*Hauling tall pines at a Urals timber camp near Molotov.*

## NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

January 1	New Year's Day.
May 1-2	International Labour Day.
November 7-8	Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, November 7 (25 October o.s.) 1917.
December 5	Constitution Day (established 1936).

## DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES

### JANUARY

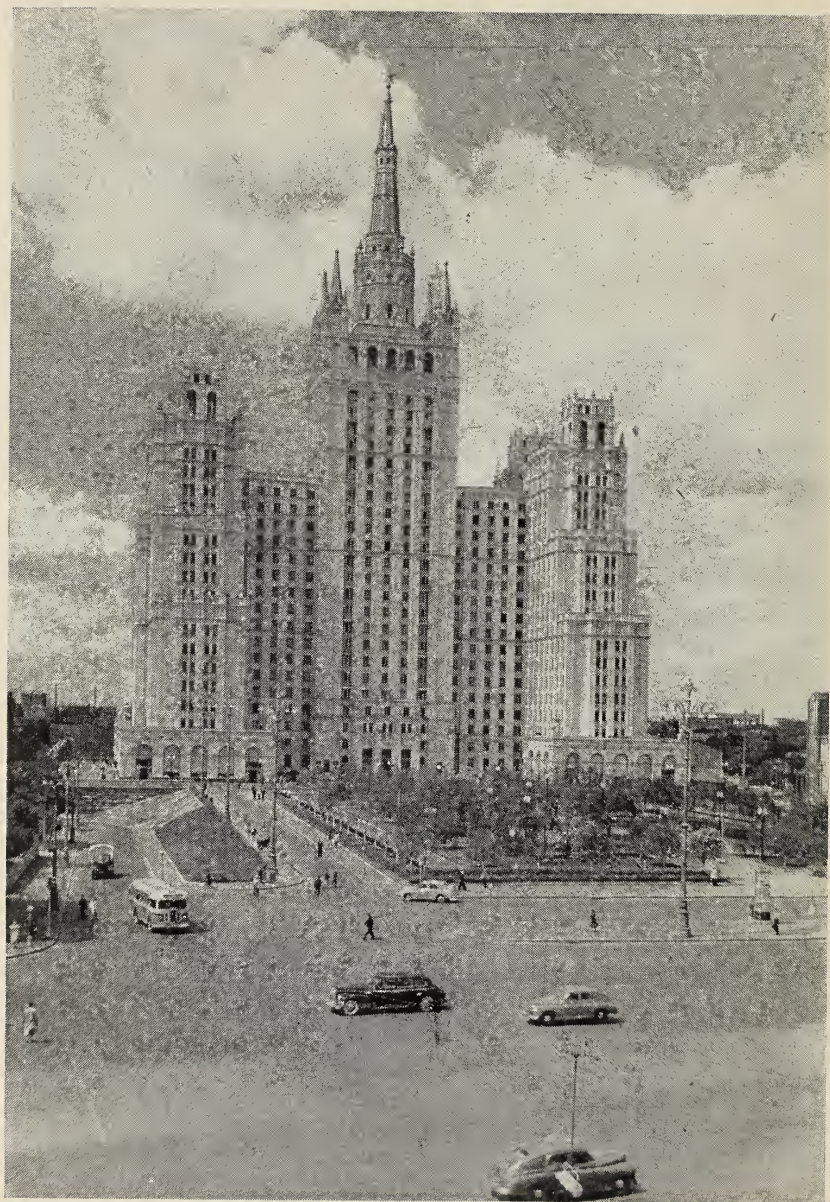
- 1 Byelorussian S.S.R. founded 1919.
- 7 Alexander Karpinsky, scientist, born 1847.
- 17 Birth of Nikolai Zhukovsky, scientist, "father of Russian aviation".
- 18 Re-unification of Russia and Ukraine, 1654.
- 21 Death of V. I. Lenin, 1924.
- 22 "Bloody Sunday" 1905. Troops fire on peaceful demonstration, St. Petersburg. First Russian Revolution.
- 23 Moscow University founded 1755.
- 27 M. E. Saltykov-Shchedrin, satirical writer, born 1826 (died 1889).
- 29 A. P. Chekhov born 1860 (died 1904).

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Kirghiz A.S.S.R. formed 1926. Union Republic in 1936.
- 2 M. V. Frunze born 1885.  
Defeat of Germans at Stalingrad, 1943.
- 4 K. E. Voroshilov born 1881.
- 8 Russian Academy of Sciences founded.
- 14 Treaty of Friendship and Alliance between U.S.S.R. and People's Republic of China, 1950.
- 21 GOELRO—State Committee on Electrification established, 1920.
- 22 GOSPLAN—State Planning Committee established, 1921.
- 23 Birthday of the Soviet Army (1918).
- 25 Soviet power established in Georgia, 1921.

### MARCH

- 1 V. V. Dokuchaev soil scientist, born 1846 (died 1903).
- 3 Russian troops liberated Bulgaria from Turks, 1878.
- 5 Death of Joseph Stalin, 1953.
- 8 International Women's Day.
- 14 A Law on the Defence of Peace passed by U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, 1951.
- 12 Overthrow of Tsarism, February Rebellion, 1917



*A tall apartment house on Vostanya (Uprising) Square, Moscow.*





*Peace Street—Stalingrad, on the Volga.*

- 27 S. M. Kirov born, 1886 (died December, 1934).
- 28 Maxim Gorki (Peshkov) born, 1868 (died 1936).  
Bolshoi Theatre founded, 1776.
- 30 V. A. Tropinin, Russian painter, born, 1776 (died 1857).

#### APRIL

- 1 N. V. Gogol born, 1809 (died 1852).
- 4 First mention of Moscow in chronicles, 1147.
- 5 Alexander Nevsky defeats the Teutonic Knights (Battle on the Ice), 1242.
- 6 Alexander Herzen, philosopher and author, born 1812.
- 17 N. S. Khrushchov born, 1894.
- 22 Birth of Lenin, 1870.
- 28 Soviet power established in Azerbaijan, 1920.

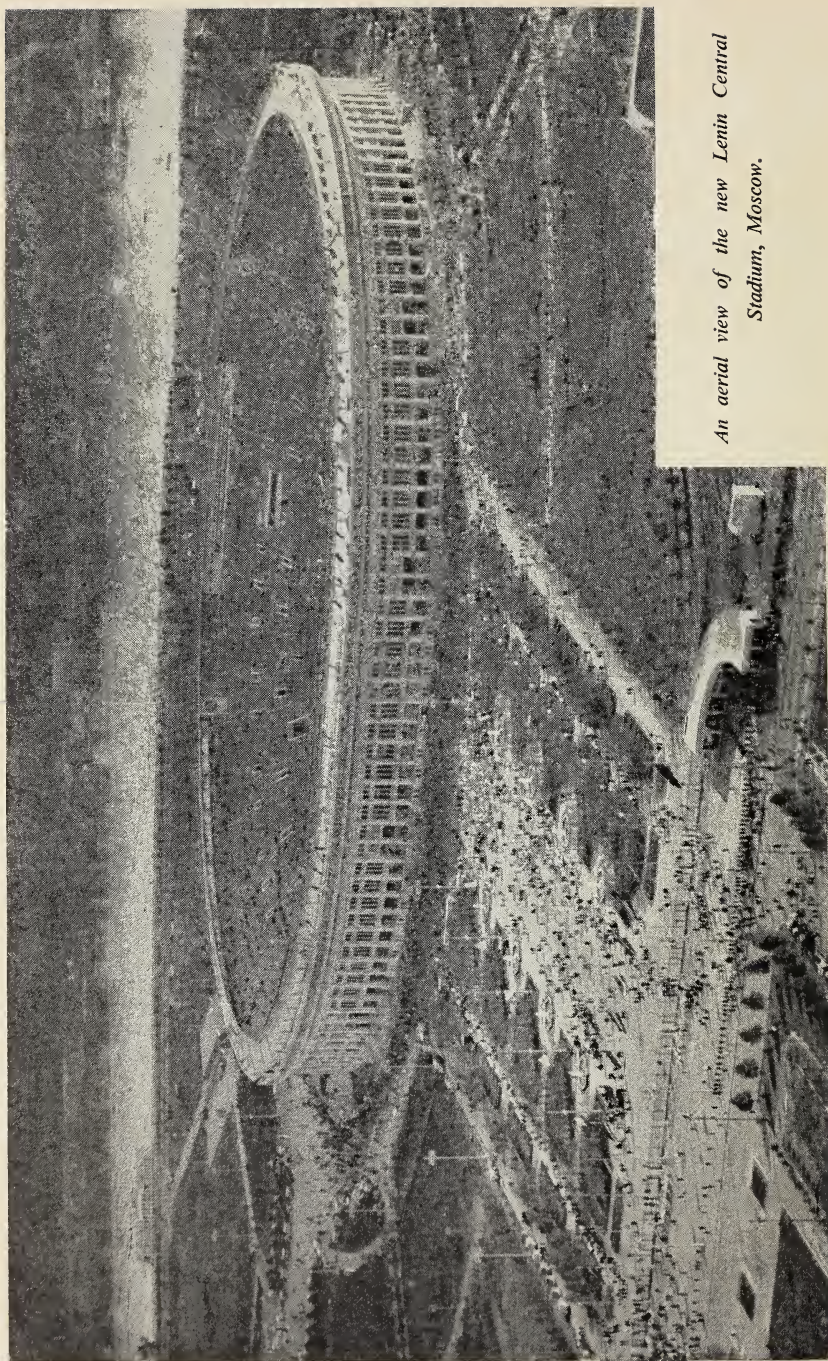
#### MAY

- 1 International Labour Day.
- 2 Capture of Berlin by Soviet Forces, 1945.
- 5 Soviet Press Day (first edition of *Pravda*, 1912).
- 7 Birth of P. I. Tchaikovsky, 1840 (died 1893).  
Soviet Radio Day.
- 9 Victory Day.

#### JUNE

- 1 Birth of M. I. Glinka, Russian composer, 1804.  
International Children's Day.
- 4 Birth of Y. M. Sverdlov, 1885 (died 1919).
- 6 Birth of V. V. Kuibyshev, 1888 (died 1935).  
Birth of A. S. Pushkin, 1799 (died 1837).





*An aerial view of the new Lenin Central  
Stadium, Moscow.*



- 9 Birth of Peter the Great, 1672.
- 11 N. A. Bulganin born, 1895.
- 22 German invasion of the U.S.S.R., 1941.  
Aviation Day—(a Sunday in June)
- 27 First atomic power station opened 1954.

## JULY

- 5 First Russian textbook printed by I. Fyedorov, 1574.
- 15 Opening of Moscow-Volga Canal, 1937.
- 19 V. V. Mayakovsky born, 1893 (died 1930).  
Physical Culture Day—(a Sunday in July)
- 24 Birth of Nikolai Chernyshevsky, philosopher and author, 1828.  
Soviet Navy Day—usually last Sunday in July.
- 27 Volga-Don Canal opened, 1952.  
Railwaymen's Day—(a Sunday in July/August)

## AUGUST

- 2 White Sea-Baltic Canal opened, 1933.  
Moldavian S.S.R. formed, 1940.
- 3 Lithuanian S.S.R. joined U.S.S.R., 1940.
- 5 Latvian S.S.R. joined U.S.S.R., 1940.  
Birth of Ilya Repin, 1844, artist (died 1930).
- 6 Estonian S.S.R. joined U.S.S.R., 1940.
- 26 Kazakh A.S.S.R. formed, 1920 (S.S.R. in 1936).  
Miners' Day (last Sunday in August).

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Yermak's expedition into Siberia, 1581.
- 7 Battle of Borodino (against Napoleon), 1812.
- 8 Battle of Kulikovo—Tartars defeated by Dimitri Donskoi, 1380.
- 9 Leo Tolstoy born, 1828 (died 1910).
- 11 Jan Kalnis, Latvian poet, born, 1865 (died 1929).
- 16 M. J. Kutazov, Russian soldier, born, 1745 (died 1813).
- 26 Birth of Pavel Yablochkov, electrical engineer and inventor, 1847.
- 28 Peasant uprising led by G. I. Pugatchov, 1772.

## OCTOBER

- 14 Tajik A.S.S.R. formed 1924. (Union Republic in 1929.)
- 27 Uzbek S.S.R. formed, 1924.  
Turkmen S.S.R. formed, 1924.  
I. Michurin born, 1855 (died 1935).

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Reunification of West Ukraine with Ukrainian S.S.R., 1939.
- 2 Reunification of West Byelorussia with Byelorussia, 1939.
- 7 October Revolution (25 October, old calendar), 1917.
- 8 Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets, 1917. Decree transferring all power to the Soviets.  
Decrees on Peace and Land passed, and first Soviet Government formed (the Council of People's Commissars, headed by V. I. Lenin).
- 9 Birth of I. S. Turgenev, Russian writer, 1818 (died 1883).
- 11 Birth of T. Dostoyevsky, 1821 (died 1881).
- 12 Birth of A. P. Borodin, composer, 1833 (died 1887).
- 16 Declaration of the Rights of the Nations of Russia, 1917.
- 24 Birth of A. V. Suvorov, Russian soldier, 1730 (died 1800).
- 29 Soviet government established in Armenia, 1920.

## DECEMBER

- 1 Sergei Kirov assassinated, Leningrad, 1934.
- 5 Constitution Day (since 1936), a national holiday.
- 10 Birth of N. A. Nekrassov, Russian poet, 1821 (died 1878).
- 11 G. V. Plekhanov born, 1856, propagator of Marxism (died 1918).
- 21 Birth of Stalin, 1879 (died 5 March 1953).
- 25 Soviet power proclaimed in the Ukraine, 1917.
- 30 The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics founded, 1922.



*Leningrad's main street, the Nevsky Prospekt, looking towards the River Neva.*

*A village street scene on the Irtysh State Farm near Omisk.*





# CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

(Eighth to third centuries B.C.)

Rule of Scythians in the steppes of the northern Black Sea coast.

(Sixth to early seventh centuries A.D.)

Reports about the Ants (East Slav people allied to the Wends) by Jordanes, Procopius and Mauricius.

839 Reports in the Bertini annals on the appearance of the "Russ" people.

862 Chronicles report Rurik in Novgorod.

862 Kiril and Methodius bring alphabet from Greece.

911 Oleg's Treaty with the Greeks.

978-1015 Rule of Prince Vladimir Svyatoslavich over Kiev Russ.

988 Introduction of Christianity into Russia.

1113-1125 Rule of Prince Vladimir Monomach (married Gyda, daughter of King Harold of England).

1147 First mention of Moscow in chronicles. Prince Yuri Dulgoruki (Long Arm), son of the above, credited with its founding.

1236-1241 Khan Baty conquers Russian principalities.

1242 Victory of Alexander Nevsky over Teuton Knights (the "Battle of the Ice").

1328-41 Ivan Kalita, the first Grand Prince of Muscovy.

1380 Battle of Kulikovo. First defeat of Tatars.

1395 Invasion of Tamerlane.

1462-1505 Ivan III, Grand Prince of Muscovy.

1480 Liberation of the Russian state from the Tatar-Mongol yoke under Ivan III.

1547-1584 Ivan IV. Title of Czar first used.

1552 Conquest of the Kazan khanate. 2 October—capture of Kazan.

1553 Richard Chancellor in Moscow. Laid foundations of Anglo-Russian trade. Muscovy Company formed.

1556 Book-printing began in Russia by Ivan Fyodorov.

1558-1583 Livonian war.

1581 Yermak's expedition to Western Siberia.

1598-1605 Reign of Boris Godunov. Built Arkhangel, fortified Smolensk.

1605, June-May 1606 Reign of False Dmitry.

1606-07 Uprising of peasants and Cossacks under leadership of Bolotnikov.

1611 Kuzma Minin begins to organise people's levies in Nizhny Novgorod.

1612 Expulsion of the Poles from Moscow.

1613-1645 Reign of Mikhail Fyodorovich.

1645-1766 Reign of Alexei Mikhailovich.

1648 Uprising of Cossacks and peasants in the Ukraine, led by Bogdan Khmel'nitsky, against the Polish yoke.

1649 Peasants finally reduced to serfdom.

1652 First iron foundry.

1654 Re-unification of Russia and the Ukraine.

1670-71 Peasant uprising under Stenka (Stepan) Razin.

1676-1682 Reign of Fyodor Alexeievich.

1682-1725 Reign of Peter I.

1698 Mutiny of the Streletz and their execution. Streletz troops disbanded.

1700-1721 Great Northern War with Sweden.

1700 Peter introduced Julian Calendar.

1703 Founding of Petersburg (now Leningrad).

1703 First newspaper—the *Vedomosti*.

1707 Uprising of Cossacks and peasants led by Bulavin.

1709 Peter I defeats Swedes at Poltava.

1721 Peter I adopts the title of Emperor of Russia.

1724 Foundation of Academy of Sciences.

1725-1727 Reign of Catherine I.

1727-1730 Reign of Peter II.

1730-1740 Reign of Anna Ivanovna.

1741-1761 Reign of Elizabeth Petrovna.

1755 Foundation of Moscow University.

1757-1761 War between Russia and Prussia (Russia's participation in the seven-years war).

28 September 1760

Russian troops occupy Berlin.

1761 Reign of Peter III.

28 June 1762-6 November 1796

Reign of Catherine II.

1768-1774 First Russo-Turkish war under Catherine II; Crimea freed from the Turks.



*Russia's most typical tree is the silver birch, here seen in a winter landscape in the Kirov Region, R.S.F.S.R.*

*Holidaymakers with their cars at Gurguz in the Crimea.*





- 1773-75 Uprising of peasants, Cossacks and peoples of Lower Volga and Urals, led by Pugachev.
- 1783 Crimea annexed. Founding of Sevastopol.
- 1787-1791 Second Turkish War.
- 1796-1801 Reign of Paul I (assassinated).
- 1801 Annexation of Georgia to Russia.
- 1801-1825 Reign of Alexander I.
- 1806-1812 Russo-Turkish War.
- 1808-1809 Russo-Swedish War.
- 1812 War with Napoleon I—Moscow burnt. Napoleon retreated from Russia.
- 1825 Uprising of the Decembrists.
- 1825-55 Reign of Nicholas I.
- 1826-28 Russo-Persian War.
- 1837 First railway in Russia opened (Petersburg-Tsarskoye Selo).
- 1853-56 Crimean War.
- 1855-81 Reign of Alexander II.
- 1861 Abolition of Serfdom.
- 1870-1924 Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin).
- 1877-78 Russo-Turkish War.
- 1 March 1881 Alexander II assassinated by People's Will group.
- 1881-94 Reign of Alexander III.
- 25 November 1883 "Liberation of Labour" group, organised by Plekhanov in Geneva.
- 1885 Strike of workers at Morozov factory in Orekhovo-Zuyevo.
- 1894-1917 Reign of Nicholas II.
- Autumn 1895 Lenin organises Petersburg Union of Struggle for the Liberation of the Working Class.
- 3 March 1898 First Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in Minsk.
- 1900-03 Publication of Lenin's paper, *Iskra*.
- 1903 2nd Congress of R.S.D.L.P. Menshevik/Bolshevik division.
- 13-15 May 1905 Formation of first Soviet of Workers' Deputies at Ivanovo-Ivovnesensk.
- 9-18 December 1905 Moscow armed uprising.
- 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War.
- 1905-07 First revolution in Russia.
- 5-17 January 1912 Sixth Conference of the R.S.D.L.P. (Prague).
- 1912 Execution of workers at the Lena gold fields.
- 1912 Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party of Bolsheviks established as separate party.
- 1912 First issue of *Pravda* 22 April (5 May).
- 1914-18 First World War.
- 1917 February. Overthrow of Tsarism.
- 1917 October. October Socialist Revolution in Russia 25 October (7 November).
- 1917 Foundation of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.
- 1918 Organisation of the Red Army.
- 1918 Defeat of German interventionists in the Ukraine.
- 1919 Foundation of the Communist International.
- 1919 Defeat of "White" generals Kolchak, Denikin, and Yudenich, and Entente intervention.
- 1920 War with the Polish reactionaries and defeat of Wrangel.
- 1922 Defeat of Japanese interventionists in Far East.
- 1922 Foundation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- 1924 Death of Lenin.
- 1927-31 Collective Farms organised.
- 1928-32 First Five-Year Plan.
- 1933-37 Second Five-Year Plan.
- 1934 U.S.S.R. joined League of Nations.
- 1936 Adoption of the new Constitution of the U.S.S.R. 5 December.
- 1939 Western Ukraine and Western Byelo-Russia joined to U.S.S.R.
- 1940 Peace Treaty signed between the U.S.S.R. and Finland.
- 1940 Admission of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Soviet Socialist Republics into the U.S.S.R.
- 1940 Moldavian S.S.R. founded.
- 1941 German attack on the U.S.S.R. 22 June.
- 1942 Anglo-Soviet Treaty of Alliance 26 May.

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February 1956
- Conference, 17 July-2 August.  
Defeat of Germans at Stalingrad.  
Capture of Berlin by Soviet armies, 2 May.  
Capitulation of Germany.  
Capitulation of Japan.  
Adoption of Third Five-Year Plan for reconstruction and development of the national economy of the U.S.S.R. (1946-50).  
Foreign Ministers' Conference, Moscow, 10 March.  
Fourth Five-Year Plan (1951-1955).  
Volga-Don Canal opened.  
Death of Stalin, 5 March.  
First atomic power plant, Moscow, 27 June.  
Virgin lands project begun.  
State Treaty with Austria.  
Soviet Disarmament proposals to U.N. Disarmament Commission.  
Warsaw Pact, 13 May.  
Conference of Heads of Government, Geneva, July.  
Conference of Foreign Ministers, October/November.  
Fifth Five-Year Plan (1956-1960).  
Twentieth Congress of the C.P.S.U.

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